# WALSALL

Thursday, March 19, 2015

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Wedded bliss follows act of chivalry



**Hot-shot Tom back on scoresheet** 



## 200 lodge bids for name on memorial

HUNDREDS of people have requested to have their names inscribed on a special

monument dedicated to a community's locksmiths. The Willenhall heritage trust launched a sponsorship campaign last year to help cover the costs to build the structure.

It will be erected on land at the corner of Walsall Street and Bilston Street recognising the people who worked for leading industry

Some 203 requests have been received from people to have the details of workers past and present engraved on bricks that will be used

on bricks that will be used to build a wall structure in the town centre.
Councillor Diane Coughlan, of Willenhall South ward said: "We've had a fantastic response. We have had 203 applications so far and we are working positively with Walsall Council. "We're due to hold a site visit with council officers and the landscape architect."

The project has attracted £10,000 grant from the council's capital programme and more sponsorship cash is being sought.

To sponsor a brick, email membersofwht@btinternet.com or write to WHT c/o 69 Brereton Road Willenhall WV12 5LA for details.

## Job hopes at

REGENERATION bosses say up to 60 new jobs will be created if the transforma-tion of prime land in Walsall pushes ahead.

The site on the corner of Littleton Street West and Hatherton Street is set for redevelopment, with a £3.2m Jhoots Pharmacy headquarters already built.

Planning permission is in place for up to two other offices on the site. Walsall Council regeneration chief Councillor Mohammed Nazir said it was now an 'iconic corridor' of Walsall.

# G BOOST **APPRENTICES**

**HUNDREDS** of new apprenticeships are set to be created across Walsall under £500,000 plans to tackle unemployment.

Cash is to be ploughed into extending the borough council's Walsall Works initiative for

borough council's Wals
the next three years.
It is anticipated around
210 apprenticeships and
traineeships will be created
along with support for 800
jobseekers by 2018.
The initial £2.2 million
Walsall Works project was
aunched by the authority in
2012 and has so far offered
support with training and
employment to more than
1,500 people aged 16 to 24.
This has included 475 full
apprenticeships.

apprenticeships.

It has also been expanded to help older people find vacancies.

The scheme has aimed to drive down unemploy-ment by offering incentive payments for businesses to payments for businesses to train each young person in industries including engi-neering and manufacturing, construction and health and social care.

## Backing

Walsall Works has also received financial backing through the likes of Sills Funding Agency, Depart-ment for Work and Pensions and employers through sal-

aries.
Following the success, the rollowing the success, the council is now set to agree to invest £400,000 from reserves and £100,000 from the initial budget allocation to carry on the programme.

The intention is for 110 full apprenticeships and 100 young people put through traineeships.

A further 600 will be helped with securing emhelped with securing em-ployment and training and another 200 people aged

## by Craig Hughes

over 25 will also get support into work. The council's cabinet was being recommended to approve the proposals at a meeting yesterday (Wednesday).

A report has been pro-duced from head of strategic regeneration, Mark Lavender to portfolio holder coun-cillor Mohammed Nazir.

#### Resources

It said: "Measuring the social and economic return on our investment has enon our investment has en-abled us to identify the im-pact that our core funding has made on savings in the way of resources in welfare benefits, crime, education, health and income to the exchequer in the way of earnings, tax and national insurance.

The total savings and in-come is estimated as £2.8m.

"The Walsall Works name and branding is now widely recognised locally and across the sub-region by partners and young people and we have worked hard to market and showcase the achieve-ments of the programme nationally.

"Wider recognition of the "Wider recognition of the brand name has resulted in expansion of our support to residents over the age of 25 who have asked for our as-sistance with their employ-ment and training needs which has resulted in a new job matching service being launched in October 2014."

## Saddlers fan sets off on Wembley way



Graeme Brookes on the pitch with Martin Bennett, CEO of club sponsors HomeServe ahead of his walk to Wembley never seen his beloved team reach the national stadium. family and supporters and has been of

A LIFELONG Saddlers fan has set off on a gruelling 138-mile walk to Wemb-ley in memory of his grandfather.

Graeme Brookes kicked off his charity challenge from the halfway line at Bank's Stadium on Saturday.

Graeme is expected to arrive at Wembley on Sunday for the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final against Bristol City.

The 31-year-old from Worcester used to go to matches with his grandfather, Ronald Brookes who followed the team home and away for 83 years, despite being deaf and blind.

He passed away aged 91, having

national stadium.

Mr Brookes said: "My grandfather was there when we beat Reading in 2001 but Wembley was being refurbished so it was held at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium. He said he wished it was at Wembley and wanted to walk down Wembley Way. So I decided to walk the whole way in his memory."

Ronald's grandson, a children's services warker will walk for girth down.

vices worker, will walk for eight days along the Grand Union Canal to reach London and to raise funds for Walsall ciety for the Blind

He will be joined part of the way by

fered free accommodation each night along the route.

Meanwhile, pop superstar Sir Elton John has wished the Saddlers good luck as the team prepares to head to Wembley.

Wishing the Saddlers luck, Sir Elton, who will perform at the Banks's Stadium on June 13, said: "I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate the Walsall players, coaching staff and directors for reaching the final. "I wish all of them and the Walsall

supporters good luck and great day out at Wembley on Sunday."

## Fewer on the beat as police axe to fall

UP to 2,500 West Midlands Police officers and staff are set to be axed in the next four years as the force bat-tles to save a further £120 million.

tles to save a further £120 million.

Chief Constable Chris Sims warned the cuts would result in fewer bobbies on the beat and major changes to the force's neighbourhood policing programme.

Some £126m has already been cut from the budget since 2010 and 3,000 people lost from the payroll. Overall, this means the strength of the force is expected to fall by more than 5,000 people to just 8,500 in a decade. West Midlands Police Federation deputy chairman Tom Cuddeford said: "You need boots of the ground."

need boots on the ground and fewer officers working the beat means less engage-ment with local communi-

The force's 2020 Bluerint, which pinpoints 36 major changes to working practices, aims to make the best use of new technology to cushion the effects of austroits.

terity. Ch Con Sims said: "With Ch Con Sims said: "With shrinking resources we must rise to this challenge. We have got to deliver at least as good, if not a better, way of policing.
"The public will be no less safe but the way we provide that security will be different."

## **Employment** help on offer

HUNDREDS of job seekers head to Walsall College today looking to take their first steps on the jobs ladder.

Dozens of businesses, training providers and busi-ness leaders will be on hand from 10am to 2pm. Skills minister Nick Boles will be in attendance.

The Ladder for the Black Country, run by the Express & Star, training provider PTP, the Vine Trust, and the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, will give de-tails about apprenticeships.

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## Sex offenders' whereabouts unknown

ALMOST 40 convicted sex offenders in the West Midlands have gone missing, it has been revealed. One has been missing for almost 10 west Mercia Police said six registered sex offenders were missing, as the highest number number of required to inform police and probabilities and paedophiles – are required to inform police and probabilities of their addresses and has been missing for almost 10 west Mercia Police said six registered sex offenders were missing, as the highest number number of required to inform police and probabilities.

Police admit they do not know the whereabouts of 39 registered sex of-fenders, one whom went missing in 2006, and a further nine between 2010 and 2012

After London, the West Midlands

istered sex offenders were missing, including one whose whereabouts had been unknown for eight years.

Across the country, 396 sex of-fenders are wanted, including some who have been missing for more than a decade.

Registered sex offenders – includ-

ficials working under multi-agency public protection arrangements.

In a statement through campaign group The Phoenix Post, Sara Payne, whose daughter Sarah was abducted and killed in 2000 by

that any registered sex offenders have disappeared from authority management, putting the public at

A Home Office spokesman said:
"It is for the police to manage offenders in their area, but we work
closely with forces to ensure legislation is effective and that officers

# WALSALL College is calling on more small businesses to consider taking on young apprentices and benefit from a number of grants. £2.9m funding helps

**Apprentice** 

call made

by college

to firms

apprentices and beliefs from a number of grants. The Apprenticeships Grant for Employers (AGE) is a government initiative available to businesses with fewer than 50 employees and comprises a payment of \$21,500 to help with the cost of an extra employee aged between 16 and 24. Firms can apply for the grant for up to five apprentices at any level. Walsall College offers a full range of apprenticeships to employers of all sizes and can also support employers in the recruitment and assessment of apprentices, saving companies money in recruitment fees.

James Norris, assistant

recruitment fees.
James Norris, assistant principal for commercial development at the college, said: "We are actively look, import of these grants. Walsall College is committed to delivering high quality apprenticeships and work-based NVQs that will support companies, helping them achieve success now and in the future." cess now and in the future.

For more details call 01922 651129 or email businesstrainingsolutions@walsallcollege.ac.uk

## **Students meet** top designer

STUDENTS from the Black Country with an interest in a fashion met an award-win ning designer

Walsall College students Walsall College Studento Sahara Harvey, aged 18, and Happi Bryce-Randall, 17, attended an event held by Stephen Arnold.

It followed a team-up with Walsall Housing Group and social platform Slenky and was at Marco Pierre White's "The Cube' restaurant.

Stephen has designed garments for the likes of Azealia Banks, J Cole, Ella Eyre, Kanye West, Sean Paul and many other international acts.

## **Gracie praised**

A WALSALL schoolgirl was praised for her efforts in designing a West Midlands Ambulance Service mascot. Lloyd the Paramedic Tur-tle was created by a Rugeley boy, but seven-year-old Gra-cie May Smith, of Ryders Hayes in Pelsall, was com-mended and won a Kindle.

## glass firm to expand A GLASS company from Walsall has secured

a £2.9 million grant to help fund its group's expansion plans.

Brownhills Investment, which owns Brownhills Glass. was awarded the funds from the investment Glass, was awarded the funds from the investment firm Business Growth Fund (BGF) to buy Durham-based Peterlee Glass and extend its operations. The group, of Beecham Close, Walsall Wood, employs 120 people including designers and fitters. It uses state-of the-art technology to manufacture glass products. Executive chairman Nick Harrison said: "By scaling we are able to create efficiencies, reduce lead times and support our customers

car buver

THE UK's biggest online car buyer webuyanycar.com has opened a branch in Wal-

The showroom at The Old

Foundry, Bath Street, will be open six days a week and is able to complete vehicle purchases in as little as 20

minutes from customers making online appoint-

ments or even just turning

up.
"There are 105,000 privately-owned cars in the Walsall branch catchment

waisail branch catchment area and, according to retail sector research, at least 30 per cent will be put on the market by their owners dur-ing the next 18 months," said Rich Evans, head of technical Services for

webuyanycar.com which has its head office in Middleton, Great Manchester and more than 200 branches including

Cannock, Dudley, Kidder-minster, Lye, West Brom-wich and Wolverhampton. Muhammad Khan, who heads up the team at the

Walsall branch, which is one of more than 200 webuyany-

car.com outlets nationwide, said: "We've made it easier to sell cars.

"We've been busy from

and support our customers in their requirements across the country.

"We've held Peterlee in

high regard for years and they share the same philos-ophies in how to go about business in the right way.

#### **Excited**

"Its reputation for pro-cessing quality and cus-tomer service is very much aligned to our own priori-ties and I am excited about the prospect of adding their skills and knowledge to the

group.
"BGF's growth capital has afforded us the freedom to continue to expand. We wanted a financial backer that could offer long-term, flexible support without taking control, and BGF was able to fit that brief."

Brownhills Investments was set up in 2012 after a buyout of Brownhills Glass,

buyout of Brownhills Glass, which was created in 1977. It is headed by Mark Harrison and Tim Price.

BGF senior investment manager Gurinder Sunner said: "Brownhills management team has a clear growth plan, a stable track record and a wealth of business and sector experience. "We are delighted that our initial investment has already allowed them to expand into the north."

opening day - and expect this to continue. People are clearly turning to us to sell their cars."

## School play such a horror



Coppice School Little Shop of Horrors cast members with the giant plant Audrey II

INTEREST is soaring in the tale of a 12ft man-eating plant to be staged in Willenhall. Sixty Coppice students will get a taste of the stage when they tread the boards for

their school production of Little Shop of Horrors

The show is a charming, kooky and hilarious 1950s musical sci-fi spoof, based on the cult film and one of the longest running

off-Broadway shows of all time.

Rehearsals have been running since September and the show, which runs until Sat-

urday, kicked off last night (Wednesday). Mayor of Wolverhampton Councillor Mi-chael Heap is expected to be in attendance during its four-night run.

The school will also welcome governors and special guests from the local community to join proud friends and family. Performances are at 7.30pm each night, with a Saturday matinee at 3.30pm.

Tickets are available from the school reception priced at £9 adults, £5. concessions or £23 for a family.



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## MP's call on voting is set for a kicking

AN MP's bid for a law to fine AN MP's bid for a law to fine people for not turning out to vote is to be kicked into touch after being scheduled for debate on the last day of Parliament before the General Election.

MPs are not even due to sit on March 27 when Walsall North MP David Winnick's 'civic obligation' proposals are slated for a

Even if they do sit, it is among 36 separate items of business and other bills brought by MPs.

The Labour MP, who is a comparation of the single of the sin

The Labour MP, who is defending a 990 majority on May 7, vowed to press ahead with it if he is re-elected. He said: "I make no apology in starting a debate over whether there should be a civic obligation or duty to vote in general elections. The debate will certainly continue after the May election."

continue after the may escition."

Mr Winnick, who has represented Walsall North for 36 years, called on whoever forms the next government to 'have the guts to do what is necessary' to put his proposals on its agenda so they have a chance of becoming law

He said: "If we want our democracy to flourish and strengthen we should do what we can to get people to participate in elections."

## **Party names** Ukip hopeful

UKIP have chosen a new candidate to contest a par-liamentary seat held by the Conservatives in Walsall.

Anthony Thompson was chosen as Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Aldridge-Brownhills following Paul White's resignation.

Mr White stood down after relocating to Blackpool for business reasons.

The seat has been held by Conservative Sir Richard Shepherd since 1979 but he is standing down and the Tories have chosen Wendy Morton to try to hold it in his place.

#### **Bus route boost**

EXTRA evening and Sunday bus services will run between Bloxwich and Kingstanding from next month. The 25 service, operated by iGo, will benefit from April 12, on a four-month trial basis. Transport authority Centro provided £15,000 of funding.

## Village braced for Broadchurch effect



Arthur (Martin Clunes) and George

A GREAT Wyrley resident believes television drama Arthur & George could have a Broadchurch-like effect on the village.

Paul Ridgway reckons hundreds of eager visitors could flock to see the sites of the no-

visitors could nock to see the sites of the no-torious horse maimings.

Mr Ridgway's late grandfather Roland Ridgway documented the scandal more than 60 years before the release of Julian Barnes' book which inspired the ITV drama.

Paul said: "If you had gone to West Bay in Dorset, where Broadchurch is based, six or seven years ago you would have seen a tiny fishing village with a cafe and maybe

a hotel. But now you can't move because of how many visitors are there because of Broadchurch."

The 47-year-old said he was glad to see The 47-year-old said he was glad to see the village back in the spotlight again but was eager to point out that Barnes was not the only person to chronicle the horse maimings of the early 1900s.

His grandfather had already spent most of the 1940s speaking to people who lived in Creet Winder when the mystery upfolded.

Great Wyrley when the mystery unfolded and recorded everything. But the prohibi-tive cost of printing at the time and the fact the local historian was still researching up

to his death in 1993 meant he never say his findings put into print. It was not for another nine years after his death that the work became recognised.

The maimings provide one of 33 chapters in The Bygone Days of Cheslyn Hay.

Of the TV adaptation, Paul said: "My

granddad would have loved it because it puts Cheslyn Hay and Great Wyrley on the map.
"I think a lot of people think this is some

sort of Sherlock Holmes story but this is something which happened and was very

# Elderly facing charges for emergency alarm scheme

MORE than 2,000 Walsall pensioners are fac ing a £150-a-year charge for their free community alarm.

Some 3,700 people in the borough use the 24-hour, seven-day-a-week response service. It is currently provided free to 2,400 people aged 80 and over.

However, council bosses are now looking at changes to

# safety on the roads

MAIN routes in Walsall are being lined up for more than £800,000 of improvements following a series of

accidents.

The main ring road,
Broadway, Sutton Road and
the town centre are among those being looked at for safety measures.

safety measures.
Junction improvements,
better crossings and road
markings are being considered by council highways
chiefs subject to securing
funding and firm designs
being drawn up.
Pedestrian facilities an
junction improvements are

junction improvements are being looked at on the ring road along the Littleton Street stretch as part of a £270,000 scheme. Highways chiefs are also putting to-gether proposals for 20mph zones in the town centra and zones in the town centre and

upgrading pedestrian links under a £396,000 scheme. The council is also con-The council is also considering warning signs and new pedestrian refuge at Broadway West, near West Bromwich Street and crossing build outs on Sutton Road under designs worth more than £150,000.

However, council bosses are now looking at changes to the scheme in a shake-up of social care services.

They are reviewing charges for home care, day looking in the Care.

services to take into account new legislation in the Care Act and the Children and Families Act.

The changes, expected to affect thousands of people, were being discussed by Walsall Council's cabinet yesterday (Wednesday).

It includes bringing in a £2.90 a week bill for every-one using the community

one using the community alarms service, irrespective of age. In addition, over 80s will have to pay if they receive an income greater than pension credit and dis-ability benefit.

A report produced following public consultation revealed fears of some elderly people having the alarms removed and that they would be left vulnerable

moved and that they would be left vulnerable.

Walsall Council said it wanted to ensure the council's charges for social care are fair and based on people's ability to pay.

Terry Hawkins, interim assistant director of community care at the authority, said: "Under the new policy, there will be 57.5 per cent of people who will benefit.
"Overall losers, there will be 42.5 per cent of people."
Under the proposed changes, people could also find themselves having to pay 90 per cent of their drisposable' income towards the cost of their care if it is higher than the care bill. higher than the care bill

## Bridal shop in charity prom-otion



Dragonflies owner Carol Watts and her daughter Jess, aged 19, who also works in the shop

A BRIDALWEAR shop in Bloxwich is selling glamorous prom gowns while raising cash for charity.

Dragonflies Boutique is offering the clothing donated by a business-woman who recently shut up shop, but wanted to see the items sold in aid of good causes.

Owner Carol Watts has expanded the family-run business, moving from a unit in Cannock to premises oppo-site Bloxwich Leisure Centre.

She said: "We expanded to here

from Cannock in the new year. We sold prom, pageant and evening gowns, but when we moved to Bloxwich we took over the unit previously occupied by the Wedding Box bridal shop."

She was then contacted by Lichfield wedding planner Jane Dayus-Hinch who asked if she could take 30 gowns from a Worcester store that had closed.

The proprietor Christine Ann, a well-known bridal boutique owner, wanted to donate them for charitable

trusts to benefit. Ms Watts said: "We

"We have 18 left from the stock of 30.

"We have set up a dedicated floor area for them. We also have our normal stock for shoppers to check out.

"We also want to promote the fact that we have got these fabulous dresses on sale here and we have had an amazing response so far."

Proceeds from the sale of the outfits will be split between BBC Children In Need and the British Heart Founda-

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### Superstore cash for children's ward

A SUPERMARKET has donated £200 to a ward at Walsall Manor Hospital.

Walsall Healthcare Charity accepted the cash injection from Asda, in Darlaston, as part of their Chosen by You, Given by Us scheme.

Ward 21, which treats Ward 21, which treats unwell paediatric patients from babies up to 17, has benefited from the funding. Asda representative Cath Whitehouse presented a cheque to play leader An-gela Kelly.

Ms Kelly said the money would be used items including toys, play equipment and arts and crafts.

#### Post office branch is on the move

A POST office will move to a new home in Walsall and open for more than 45 hours extra a week.

The North Walsall branch will relocate to Costcutter Patel Ltd, also in Bloxwich Road.

The branch will close on March 23 and then be relaunched the following afternoon as part of an improved service

The extended hours will include earlier openings, later closing and Satur-day afternoon and Sunday trading.

#### **New location is** found for church

A POPULAR church in Walsall has relocated.

Walsall Community Walsall Community Church, which has more than 150 worshippers, has moved from Blue Coat CE Academy to the Goldmine Centre, Lower Hall Lane

The church is helping feed homeless people in the town each Sunday. The 'big feed' takes place at Midland Road Baptist Church from 12.30 to 330pm

#### Closure to allow work on scheme

A BUSY Walsall route will

A BUSY Walsall route will be closed for two weeks during work on a £26m road improvement scheme. Bescot Road northbound will be shut from Wallows Lane to the Wednesbury Road junction from 5pm on March 26 until April 13. A new roundabout will be installed at the junction of Wallows Lane. Diver-sions will be in place.

#### Seven-mile stroll

A WALKING group heads off on a seven mile stroll this weekend. The Walsall group of Ramblers will gather at Staunton Harold Reservoir on Sunday. Call 01922 631404 or visit www. walsallramblers.co.uk

## Walsall Borough Cats Protection



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3 child safe

# THE BEST OF

A FORMER SNP leader Gordon Wilson says first minister Nicola Sturgeon should declare Scottish independence if the UK votes to leave the EU but Scots wants to stay in. So that's just one single referendum to a) get us out of Brussels' clutches and b) solve the Scottish Question.

LAY 100 pennies on the table in front of you to represent the annual spending of the UK. Now, given that politicians of all parties agree that "Defence of the realm is the first duty of any government," how many of those pennies would you spend on defence? The answer so far, from all the main parties, is barely 2p. One serious suggestion in Whitehall is that Britain could hit its target of spending two per cent on defence by including the money paid in penper cent on defence by including the money paid in pensions to old soldiers. This is not soldiering; it is creative

IN general elections, the homing instinct is powerful. Dyed-in-the-wool Tories and Labour voters who dabbled with Ukip in by-elections tend to drift back into the fold. I with UKIP in 0y-elections tend to drift back into the rold. I dare say thousands are looking for an excuse not to vote for Ukip on May 7, hoping for just a hint that Nigel Farage's party is not yet respectable enough to be trusted. And then Farage shot himself in the foot by announcing he would scrap some of the laws against racial discrimination in the workplace. Alarm bells ringing? Thursday, March 12 may go down in history as the day when Ukip blew it.

REMEMBER how computers were going to create the 'paperless office'? This week I bought a shirt on the internet. As soon as the deal was done, I received a form to print, confirming my order. A few minutes later, I got an emailed receipt, followed two minutes later by an order reference number which was followed, after another two minutes, by an order confirmation. The next day the boss of the shirt-making company.

of the shirt-making company sent yet another lavish email. We have swapped the paper-less office for a dark, dense forest of electronic clutter.

IN just 24 hours, 300,000 adoring fans signed an email petition calling for Jeremy Clarkson to be reinstated in Top Gear. I wonder how these numbskulls would react it their son, brother or husband came home and said: "I got punched at work today"

THERE'S nothing like childlessness to give you a sugary sentimental view of family life. The Pope castigates people who do not visit their frail and elderly parents in homes, declaring: 'It is sickening to see the elderly discarded. It is a sin." Memo to his Holiness: In real life, some parents do not like their children and some children do not like their

LET'S not get too sniffy and superior about the shock-horror news that thousands of babies in China are being sold on the internet. It is happening because China has no law against private citizens offering babies for adoption. There is a grey area between offering an infant for genuine adoption and selling it to the highest bidder. If UK citizens were also allowed to offer babies for adoption, how long before eBay would be stuffed full of adorable British kids, yours for £20,000?

DRIVING home a few nights ago I came up behind an old, rather small, sports car. It turned out to be an Aston Martin DB5, as driven by James Bond in the 1960s. Back Martin DBS, as a great big beast of a car. Today it is dwarfed by the traffic around it, a reminder of the relent-less growth in the size of family saloons, and the lumpy, ever-growing humans they are designed to carry. Believe it or not, the DBS is 7.4 inches narrower than a modern Ford Focus and only eight inches longer.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes** every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

# Work to start on food court proposal Councillor

THE first phase of work to create a food court at Walsall's Saddlers Shopping Centre has begun.

Work is under way to transform a unit for Burger King. It should be completed by Sunday before the handover then takes place.

Bosses say further discussions are taking place with other interested s. The fast-food chain said it

around 30 jobs, although an exact figure is yet to be confirmed. The shopping centre, in Park Street, has never had a food court in its 35-year history. Bosses have revealed that busk-

ing will be introduced inside the complex on Sundays to showcase local talent and help boost trade.

performers will be able to take up a pitch outside Oliver Adams and a piano will be available for people to have a go.

Shopping centre manager Angela Henderson said: "They are changing the unit back into a shell to get ready for the handover.

toniplex off studys to snowcase local talent and help boost trade.

The Saddlers Sunday sets are due to launch on March 29, when the plans for the food court. There's a lot of stuff happening be-

hind the scenes and discussions are taking place with a lot of people."
Burger King became the 54th deal to be signed since owners Topland took over the shopping centre more than two years ago.
Director of Topland Steve Pope added: "The addition of a food bub

added: "The addition of a food hub will appeal to existing shoppers but also the younger generation, who expect more food choice."

# Market could retu after four year absence

DARLASTON Market could return for three days a week and be run by operators of the Bescot Sunday market.

It is claimed the move will 'breathe new life' into the town. The market was axed four years ago because of cost-cutting measures by Walsall Council following a fall in the number of traders.

following a fall in the num
But, under fresh proposals, a new-look outdoor
market on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays will be
relaunched for at least two
years by Bescot Promotions.
It is hoped up to 50 stalls
will operate in King Street
and could open in May, subject to approval from the
cabinet at a meeting vester-

get to approval from the cabinet at a meeting yester-day (Wednesday).

The plan is for the council to agree a two-year licence with the option to extend for a further 12 months.

### Weekly

A nominal fee will be paid for the first year and re-viewed on an annual basis. Steve Evans, of Bescot Promotions, which runs the

Promotions, which runs the weekly pitch outside the Banks's Stadium, said they were keen to operate the market.

He said: "We know the area, it is something that Darlaston Town Centre Partnership want. It will be a general market, I think it will go well."

The council's regenera-

will go well."
The council's regeneration chief, councillor Mo-hammad Nazir, said: "There have been calls for the mar-

### By Craig Hughes

ket to return to the town since it stopped trading in 2011. "The market has a 40-

"The market has a 40-year history and its return will be a huge boost to traders and the town as a whole.

"As a local authority which is investing heavily in regenerating our district centres we will do everything possible to reestablish it and make it a success."

cess."
Stuart Chapman, chairman of Darlaston Town
Centre Partnership said: 'We're delighted the market

"We're delighted the market could be on its way back to the town which will breathe new life into Darlaston." The 40-year-old market had been held around King Street and High Street on Fridays and Saturdays, but ended up with just four traders. It was axed in 2011. Darlaston will complement the council markets at Walsall, Bloxwich and Wilenhall. It emerged last year

lenhall. It emerged last year that a market managed by a private operator was being looked at.

## On your marks for fundraising



Helen Hill, aged 40, with family photos on the wall of her home in Aldridge

A BRAVE Walsall woman has raised more than £14,000 or a hospital which is helping her battle a rare debilitating condition. Mother-of-two Helen Hill was diagnosed

Mother-of-two Helen Hill was diagnosed with gastroparesis – a chronic condition which means the stomach cannot empty itself. It followed three years ago, following months of being unwell and not being able to tolerate food.

to tolerate food.

The 40-year-old, from Erdington Road in Aldridge, also has visceral myopathy which means her intestines don't work properly.

In short, she has multiple organ failure and have out through a feeding tube.

and has to eat through a feeding tube "It's completely changed my life," Helen said. "My body is unable to process food so anything which goes in comes straight back

out.
"I don't like to be negative about it but I do find it difficult. It affects everyday life, I can't socialise and do normal things that everyone else does, I get quite tired and quite unwell. It is a major condition.
"My trouble is I just keep smiling and no-

body realises there is anything wrong with

At the moment, because of how rare the condition is, research is thin on the ground and there is no cure.

But since last year Helen and her family have gone about changing that by embark-ing on a fundraising quest for St Mark's Hospital in Harrow, London which has one

Höspital in Harrow, London which has one of only two intestinal failure units in the country.

The hospital is currently looking at cutting-edge research to grow bowel tissue. This will help people like Helen as well as those with Crohn's disease and howel cancer. Helen initially aimed to raise £5,000 but now the pot stands at more than £14,000. Helen said: "We have exceeded all our expectations. I just think I am going to keep going."

To donate, visit www.justgiving.com/hel-en-hill22 or to get involved in fundraising send a message to Helen via the Facebook page 'Helen's Donate a Dinner'.

## in plea on fining of hospitals

COUNCILLOR claims imposing financial penalties on Walsall'sManor Hospital on Walsall'sManor Hospital for failing to deliver on A&E targets is undermining the morale of staff.

Darlaston South Council-

Darlaston South Councillor Doug James says there needs to be a suspension on fines. It comes after it was revealed that Manor Hospital has been fined more than £850,000 in under a year for patients waiting in A&E and with arriving ambulance crews by Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group.

Councillor James said: "News that Walsall CCG have imposed further financial penalties as Manor Hospital fails to deliver A&E targets is undermining the morale of doctors, nurses and staff at the hospital. "How will the Manor

"How will the Manor Hospital recruit the new nurses they require when the professional and dedicated work of staff is being brought into question by the inflexible constraints of MISS haracters and the constraints of the staff of the constraints of the constr

"Investing in a higher standard of diagnostic equipment at local medical centres, realigning GP con-tracts into team GPs to protracts into team GPs to pro-vide 24/7 cover in their areas and stopping the imposition of financial penalties, would begin to provide realistic, af-fordable solutions."

## **Four bailed as** driver is hurt

A DRIVER broke his nose and jaw and suffered a frac-tured eye socket when he was set upon by the occu-pants of a van.

Four men were arrested after the man was assaulted in Wednesbury.

The 64-year-old pulled over in Portland Street last Wednesday and the occupants of a silver Mercedes Vito van attacked him.

The four men, aged 23, 45, 56 and 57, all from Warrington, were stopped just over an hour later aand arrested on suspicion of assault. They have been released on police bail.

## **Work on track**

COUNCIL chiefs say work to build a Primark as part of the multi-million pound refurbishment of Walsall's Old Square shopping cen-tre will be completed next month

Work is on track for the store and Co-Op base. Both will create 150 jobs.



## **Come and visit** our new range of LOGIBURNING STOVES:

**Get hip with Hoppy** 

SADDLERS supporters are being urged to get in the picture with Hoppy the Hippo.

A selfic campaign has been launched for fans to have their image taken alongside the sculpture which has been painted red ahead of the club's trip to Wembley.

John Greaves, directure to corporate affairs at Homeserve, which is backing the redecoration with Walsall FC and the council, said: "We're delighted to be able to help find fun ways to paint the town red."

People can share their selfies with @HomeServeUK on Twitter and Facebook using #withwalsall.

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## **Centres to** shut with borough revamp

TEN youth centres will shut in Walsall with the loss of 54 jobs under council plans to restructure the service and

save money. Blackwood, Mossl Pelsall, Pleck, Rosehill, Giles, Proffitt Street youth centres, The Allen's Centre, will go along with Darlaston Youth Club and Aldridge Manor House from August

Manor House from August
31.

The Myplace hub, in Walstead Road West, will remain. Under the borough's
budget plan for the next two
years youth service spending will be slashed from
£1.96 million to £888,000.
Children's services hoss

£1.96 million to £888,000.
Children's services boso.
Councillor Barbara Cassidy,
said: "People are all too
aware that this council faces
an unprecedented financial
challenge of having to find
£86m of savings over four
years. Difficult decisions
have had to be made but
we're trying to do so while
protecting our residents, of
all ages, as much as possible.
"I see it as my moral duty
to prioritise ensuring that
services remain in place for

to prioritise ensuring that services remain in place for the most vulnerable children in the borough.

"As a result the youth work that is carried out in the borough, though much valued and appreciated is going to have to be delivered differently in the future."

## M6 shut over man on island

THE M6 was closed in both directions when police responded to reports of a man on the wrong side of the safety barrier.

The motorway was closed between junction nine, for Wednesbury, and junction 11, for Cannock, last Thursday evening. West Midlands Police warned motorists to avoid the motorway while they dealt with the incident at the junction 10 island.

Police were alerted to the man, believed to be in his 50s, standing on the elevated island shortly before 9pm. The man was taken to hospital.

## **Delays warning**

MOTORISTS will face two weeks of delays during sewer works starting this month.

Temporary traffic signals will be in operation along Darlaston Road, Walsall,

Dariaston Road, Waisan, from March 25.

These are due to be in place until April 10.

# Crufts award for young fundraiser Oliver



raised £1,000 for an animal charity is celebrating after scooping a top accolade at

Oliver Beckett, aged 11, had already been crowned Fundraiser of the Year by The Kennel Club. And at the internationally renowned dog show at the NEC in Birming-ham he won Outstanding Young Person of the Year, beating off competition from other youngsters from across the country.

The youngster from Birchills has been blecting money for the Bullmastiff Rescue and Adoption charity for the last two years.

SCHOOLBOY from Walsall who has In that time he has raised £1,000. After his win, he was given a glass trophy and a ro-

His father David said everyone in the family was over the moon at the win.He said: "When he won he could not believe it. said: "When he won he could not believe it. It took him a few seconds to realise what

"We sat watching in the crowd and we were so proud. People travelled from Devon and Wales to see how Oliver did. He has worked really hard to raise money. He gives his pocket money to the charity and does odd jobs around the house." The Kennel Club. Last year, the St Patrick's Catholic Primary pupil set up a web-

nck's Catholic Primary pupil set up a web-site called Pledge a Pound for Alfie. Alfie was a Bullmastiff cruelty treated by its owner who sadly had to be put down. Mr Beckett added: "Ollie is now seeking local businesses to pledge sponsorship to help fund a new van for Bullmastiff Rescue and Adoption. They haven't got their own van to nick up dows and they drive up and van to pick up dogs and they drive up and down the country." Anyone interested in pledging money should call Mr Beckett on 01922 440896.

# Police HQ to get new lease of life in regeneration bid

park and a number of former leather works sites are all in line for redevelopment.

The sites will be regenerated in a move that is designed to create hundreds of jobs in the town centre. Walsall Council chiefs have earmarked a series of locations which they say are suitable for sprucing up

also been pinpointed for re-development in the next five to 10 years. Council bosses are now holding talks with landowners and developers

as many sites are not owned by the authority.

**Vibrant** 

There are no firm plans in place at this stage but regeneration chief Councillor Mohammed Nazir said things were moving fast. "In terms of redevelopment and regeneration the term wol

terms of redevelopment and regenerating the town, Wal-sall Council is on the ball," he said. "I would like to see Walsall be a place that is vi-brant, buzzing and exciting. To see it is fit for the 21st century." Some sites have been

# FOIK Club Walsall's main police station, which is set to close, is anough the set of a new lease of life, along with Day Street car park and the old Jabez Cliff site in Lower Forster Street, which burned down and was cleared several years ago. The Challenge building used by council workers, Shannons Mill, land at the club in Walsall is to reopen after 50 years. The Folk Club at the town's Pretty Bricks pub in

The Folk Club at the town's Pretty Bricks pub in John Street will strike up again next month.

It was originally set up in 1963 by band The Packmen

and sessions were held on Wednesdays and Fridays. Well-known performers who appeared there in-cluded The Spinners, Alex Campbell, Harvey Andrews, Noel Murphy, Weston Gavin, Ian Campbell and The Corries.

The club closed in 1968

the club closed in 1968 but, following a recent re-union, the organisers – in-cluding Walsall councillor Chris Towe – decided to re-tune their instruments and relaunch it.

The club will reopen on April 9 at 8pm with performances by Councillor Towe and guest Tony Barrett.

"About 40 people attended a reunion of those who were

a reunion of those who were involved in the original club and we thought why not re-launch it. There was good feedback so that's what we're doing," Mr Towe said.

## Bus pass petition taken to Number 10



Left, Peter Millard and Richard Worrall set off to London by bus to hand in a petition to keep the free bus pass

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to keep bus travel free for pensioners set off from Walsall to deliver a petition contain-ing nearly 200,000 signatures to 10 ing nearly 200,0 Downing Street.

The national Love the Bus Pass petition is led by Walsall Pensioners' Convention. It was launched after the Government started calling for the concessionary pass available to all pensioners across the country to be reviewed in 2011, which raised fears Campaigners used their bus passes to get to London, setting off on Tuesday. Organiser Richard Worrall, who is a Walsall councillor, went on the trip using buses while other campaigners used their passes valid on trains before boarding buses later on in the journey. He has also written to more than 500 MPs to ask their position on the future of the bus pass.

Councillor Worrall said: "So far, no political party has come up with a

no political party has come up with a specific, detailed, no ifs no buts, pledge

to keep the bus pass as it is. All they need to say is that they will keep the

legislation in place.

"What we have had, and which I urge people not to be fooled by, are a couple of general statements, notably from David Cameron on February 23 in which he pledges to protect pensioner benefits, but also from UKIP in a manifesto in which they say they

will maintain the bus pass.

"Such statements just do not cut
the mustard."

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Patient referrals up by a hundred

THE number of patient referrals at Walsall Man-or hospital increased by almost a hundred in just a month, figures have

There were 584 appointments attended at Walsall Manor in January after being referred by a GP, compared to 489 in Decem-ber. A report to Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust said there were 68 occa-sions when the two-week target for referral to first

was not met.

Bosses who have been fined £21,200 for failing to meet targets.

#### Solicitor in line for legal awards

A SOLICITOR from the Black Country is in line for two legal awards. Ian Hen-ery is in line for two prizes from the Birmingham Law Society at an awards ceremony tonight.

The managing director of Ian Henery Solicitors in Willenhall is shortlisted for pro bono lawyer and also partner of the year.

His achievements in the past 12 months have in-cluded becoming a member of the British Chamber of Commerce in Malaysia, Singapore

## Royalty sought for fair in village

ROYALTY is being sought for an annual fair. Organis-ers of the Rushall May Fair are seeking a queen, aged 10 and over, and a princess, aged between seven and nine, for the event.

They will be crowned at the fair at Rushall playing fields on May 4.

Anyone interested should write to Sue Blakemore, 49 Edinburgh Drive, Rushall, WS4 1HS or call 01922 442956.

### Roadworks sees route shut down

A MAIN route into Walsall

A MAIN route into Walsall town centre is closed for a week for roadworks.

The resurfacing works have begun along Sutton Road, between the junctions of Springhill Road and Princes Avenue and started yesterday, lasting until March 25. The works are being done between 7pm and 6am in a bid to reduce disruption. reduce disruption.

#### Homes scheme

NEW homes will be built on land in the Black Counon land in the Black Country after getting the go-ahead from planners. Six houses and a bungalow will be built in Rowland Street, Walsall, after planning permission was granted.

## Some sites have been standing empty for a number of years while others are still occupied but are considered suitable for change. Walsall police station in Green Lane is due to shut, with officers moving to Bloxwich or operate from a base in the Civic Centre. SHORT HEATH Oon ecial Offer on **NEW PATIENTS WELCOME** 2 Female dentists - Mrs Jan Owen & Mrs Stefka Ivanova Emergencies seen the same day New patients welcome Examination to include scale & polish £18.50 You may be eligible for free treatment if you are in receipt of certain benefits, if you have Sports Mouth Guards had a baby in the last year, if you are 18 and in full time education or are under 18. Braces 2A Oaken Drive, Willenhall WV12 5NU 01922 478 893 Appointments Available Immediately!

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## IN MY **VIEW**



THREE teenagers have now been arrested and bailed by the Metropolitan Police, after being detained in Turkey on suspicion of plotting terrorist acts in Syria. And how exactly does this make our streets safer?

SHOULD he stay or should he go? The great Jeremy Clarkson debate seems to divide public opinion like few other matters at the moment.

A million people have so far signed an online petition calling for the former Chronicle motor-

for the former Chronicle motor-ing writer to be reinstated as the Top Gear frontman.

Meanwhile a YouGov poll of 780 UK adults said that 45 per cent believe the purveyor of tweed and faded denim should be sacked over what has been

be sacked over what has been quaintly described as a "fracas". What I can't understand is how any of these people feel they are in a position to pass judgement. Whether or not Clarkson keeps his job must surely be down to what happened at the hotel on the night in question, and nothing else taken into consideration. How many of the 45 per cent calling for Clarkson to be sacked, or for that matter the million people who think he's Jack the Lad, have any idea of the events that took place? If Clarkson really did punch a producer in the face, then he's obviously on very thin ice indeed. Nobody, wherever they work, should be allowed to assault a colleague in that way and his job must surely be down to

work, should be allowed to assault a colleague in that way, and it would be hard to see how he could keep his position.

However, if he didn't punch anybody, then he should be allowed to get on with his job. It is a matter about discipline in the

a matter about discipline in the workplace, not an ideological battle between white van men and Guardian readers.

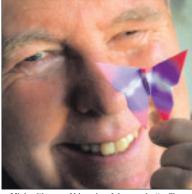
If 45 per cent of the population think Clarkson is a loud-mouthed, opinionated oaf, that is fair caught. He probably is fair enough. He probably wouldn't argue with them. But it is not their place to decide what we can and can't watch on tel-

evision.

Top Gear is one of the BBC's lop Gear is one of the bbus most commercially successful programmes, bringing in millions of pounds for the corporation, much of which will be spent on the sort of worthy programmes the Clarkson-bashers love.

Look, I don't like Strictly Come Look, I don't like Strictly Come Dancing very much, but if people want to watch it, that is up to them. I won't be starting a petition for Len Goodman to be sacked.

One aspect to the Clarkson row which seem to have slipped by unnoticed. The BBC report-edly paid nearly £6,000 to stay at the Simonstone Hall Hotel. The venue no doubt also derived considerable kudos from having some of the biggest stars or television staying there. Would it really have been too much for someone to have worked a few hours overtime so the Top Gear team could have had a cooked and when they critized from a cooked to the cooked when they critized from a cooked to the cooked when they critized from a cooked to the cooked when they critized from a cooked to the cooked when they critized from a cooked to the cooked when they critized from a cooked to the cooked when they critized from a cooked to the cooked when they critized from a cooked to the cooked when they critized from a cooked to the cooked when they critized from a cooked to the cooked when they critized from a cooked to the cooked when they critized from a cooked to the cooked when they critized from a cooked to the cooked when they critized from a cooked to the cooked when they critized from a cooked to the cooked when they critized from a cooked to the cooked when they could be cooked to the cooked when they cooked when they could be cooked to the cooked when they could be cooked to the cooked when they cooked when they could be cooked to the cooked when they could be coo meal when they returned from a long day filming?



Mick with one of his colourful paper butterflies



Mick, seen in his 20s, when origami first emerged



Another piece showing Mick's origami talent

# Mick brings his art into the fold

Master of origami, Mick Guy, is celebrating 50 years practising the art. He spoke to **ADAM BURLING** 

HE helped spread the origami craze across the country - and has even appeared in one of the most famous science fiction films of all time.
And now Mick Guy, of Bearwood,

is celebrating 50 years of creating intricate figures simply by folding

pieces of paper.

He set up the British Origami Society aged 20 after being inspired by magician Robert Harbin. And his hand can be seen in science fiction classic Blade Runner holding the shape of a chicken he folded

nothing the snape of a chicken he folded out of paper.

When he started out, no-one had even heard of origami and there were no clubs in England for the pastime. But Mick, aged 68, has encouraged thousands of people over the years to develop their skills.

## Hexagons

He spends hours each week coming up with new designs and looking for inspi-

ration.

His creations can range from a butter-

His creations can range from a outcer-fly which takes less than 50 seconds, to a series of hexagons and stars that he will spend days slaving over.

The grandfather-of-five says good ori-gami can look 'like magic' and he gets the most pleasure from seeing children's feace transfived as he produces the the most pleasure from seeing children's faces transfixed as he produces the shapes. In 1982, he found himself fold-ing a two-inch chicken with legendary director Ridley Scott pointing a camera at him. The makers of Blade Runner had contacted the origami society looking for someone to do the job – and after an in-terview Mick was chosen. He said: "It is probably the most pres-



The origami master with another piece, where nothing is cut to fit, just folded

sure I have ever been under in my life. The footage of me actually doing the folding ended up on the cutting room floor and was never used, but the ac-tual chicken is there and you can see

my hand. It's a claim to fame."

Mick started taking origami seriously when he bought a book by magician Robert Harbin, who had a TV show in the 1960s.

He spent four weeks' pocket money

on it and followed every instruction in

At the back of the book were details of enthusiasts in America, so Mick contacted them and within weeks has begun to form the British Origami So-

ciety.

It has now been going for 48 years

The supply month in Bournand still meets every month in Bournville, Birmingham.

Mick was secretary for 17 years and

is currently vice president. And he says he is proud that he has helped etch origami into the public consciousness. The retired mechanical engineer, of Abbey Road, said: "Back then, if I stopped someone in the street and asked them what origami was, they wouldn't have had a clue, but now most people have at least heard of it.
"There is always something new to

least heard of it.

"There is always something new to create and new designs to come up with.
"You would think that you would run out but you never will.
"My joy is making things as simple as possible and if I can entertain people, say by making a model that has an action, then that's the best.
"I love origami that is simple but effective."

#### **Baffled**

He is proudest of a piece that he calls 'You're a Star', which is a series of multi-coloured stars and leaves many baffled

tt-coloured stars and leaves many battled as to how he managed to put it together without cutting out any shapes. He said: "I started to put it together and realised there was star coming out, and it developed from there. "That one took a lot of effort but it has really given me pleasure."

"That one took a lot of effort but it has really given me pleasure."

Though he is also kept busy as a member of the community trust running Warley Woods just yards from his homes, he says origami will always be a major part of his life.

And he would encourage anyone interested in origami to give it a try - though he admits you need a certain amount of skill to start with.

"You need to have dexterity, because there are some people that can't fold a

"You need to nave dexterity, because there are some people that can't fold a piece of paper in a straight line, so they would struggle," he said.
"I couldn't draw an elephant but I can make one out of paper.
"Something like a butterfly is a simple weds! that can be done in exceeds and

model that can be done in seconds and it's a bit like magic that you can start with something so basic and end up with such a range of models."

**WEEK IN POLITICS** 

WOULD you take £1,000 from Tony Blair? The former Prime Minister is offering £106,000 to help Labour campaign in its 106

target seats.

And given that the Tories have a lot more money in their coffers, Ed Miliband's party could prob-ably do with every penny it can

Labour sends out begging emails every few days. This week it resorted to one signed by David Cameron saying how much he loved Labour.

The joke was that it wasn't THE David Cameron but a Scottish are some the same than the same that the same than the same than the same than the same than the

tish supporter with the same

I can imagine the walls of Brewers Green positively shak-

ing at that one.

But back to Blair and his campaign funds. UKIP's James Carver calls Tony Blair an 'embarrassment' and reminds everyone that he was the Prime Minister that took us into Iraq and Afghanistan

and Afghanistan.

He says the donations should have been refused.

He also calls it the 'Blair rich project', which means unless he thought of that one himself there's a spin doctor working for him somewhere who is clearly earning his crust.

#### Grateful

Labour probably doesn't need to pay too much heed to its opponents on this though. After all, that's what opponents do. They oppose stuff. Where it does need to do a bit of soul search-

need to do a bit of soul search-ing is among its own members. The six constituency Labour parties around here to whom Mr Blair is handing his money – Cannock Chase, Dudley South, Stourbridge, Stafford, Halesow-en and Rowley Regis and Wol-verhampton South West – are all grateful.

grateful.
After all, Mr Blair secured three election victories in a row.

Even the 2005 one was a ma-jority of 66 seats. David Camer-on and Ed Miliband would prob-ably consider 10 a great result in

It is also more than Mr Blair needed to do for Labour. He's making millions on the world stage and hardly needs to give two hoots about his old party now. Indeed, to listen to some

now. Indeed, to listen to some party members talk about him, you'd think he was the one who had made Labour unelectable in the 1980s.

Yet for all the things people did not like about him in the end, Labour are within touching distance of returning to government after just a single term in opposition.

Some candidates such as the one in Dundee who rejected the money, however, might feel hypocritical for accepting it if they opposed Mr Blair on Iraq.

And while the £1,000 offered will undoubtedly come in useful for leaflets and other campaign rest

material, the big dilemma is whether it is going to be more hindrance than help.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of

their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when

we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that very sad for the service industry as a whole.' sort of service which, in a way, is

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but from friends and family of people

goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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## **Broom sweeps on to next scandal** UK too soft IF by my actions I was to put the lives safe- carpet come into effect and it all dies down

ty and wellbeing of children in jeopardy I quietly until the next scandal.

would be, you would imagine, arrested and

The reason no action was taken in charged with these dangers and dealt with

Rotherham was due to the fact the perpetra-

swiftly.

Why then is it we hear yet again about social services and local authority managers this time in Oxford, like Rotherham not taking action to protect young vulnerable girls from sex traffickers and pimps? Why do we never hear of any social worker or manager being charged with neglect of duty? Instead the now popular large broom and council

tors were Asian men and the council was so scared to take action in this PC mad world they turned a blind eye as is in Oxford...it should not matter whatever colour a fiend

snould not matter whatever colour a nend is, they must be acted on. A lesson here being; open one's eyes, not turn a blind one. S HARRISON West Bromwich

## sense over TV debates

AT last common sense has prevailed; well done to broadcasters, who want the debates among the seven largest parties to be aired, after the disclosure of the provinces of each province of the provinces of each provinces.

manifestos of each party. This is unlike Mr Cameron who wants to have one debate before the election run-up, but in March.

I, like millions of would be

I, like millions of would be voters in this country, have no idea what is proposed by any party in their manifestos. Would it not be a good idea to let us know before we go to put our 'X' on the ballot papers? Or even for the parties to publish in newspapers what their intentions are?

In my opinion Mr Cam-

tentions are?

In my opinion Mr Cameron is running scared over the net immigration into this country. He promised to limit it to 100,000 per year. The net immigration last year was 298,000 (a third of a million), nice try

Mr Cameron

Mr Cameron.

I look forward to see how
Mr Cameron will dodge this bullet, as will millions more like me. That is of course if

A PARKER, Willenhall

Store

## Parties see **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

## **POST**

## **EMAIL**

walsall.chron@

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## **Unwitting support** for leaving the EU

IN setting out the possible ramifications of our with-IN setting out the possible ramifications of our withdrawal from the EU, D E James, quite unwittingly, is making a strong case for a suite of the setting of the setting of the setting out the possible ramine.

our exit.

Had the English nation been afforded an opportunity to vote in the Scottish in/out referendum, Scotland would not be a member of the UK, and would now be struggling to exist on reve-

struggling to exist on revenue generated from 'their'
North Sea oil!
Neither Wales or Northern Ireland have an endearing connection with England, except via the exchequer, through which they are disproportionately rewarded.

rewarded.
Our trade connections with the EU are tenuous, dependent solely upon com-

tive sources.

To believe otherwise displays a lack of commercial awareness and acumen.

I am old enough to re-member when we advanta-geously traded with other members of the 'British Empire', and nobody dictated what we could, or could not do, in our backyard! D E James should not as-

sume affiliation with groups on any political 'wing'. My judgements arise, not from nationalism, but prag-

matism.

To paraphrase a former Prime Minister, "You kip if you want to, I'm no somnambulist!'
A V HARRISON

Great Wyrley Walsall

## on criminals

WHAT kind of world are we living in where a young girl is abducted and then cut into pieces and a young lad is stabbed to death for his

is stabled to death for his bike?
We are too soft in this country when it comes to handing out the punish-ment these and other crimes ment these and other crimes deserve. Perhaps if we were more like countries such as Saudi Arabia where a life for a life is the norm, then maybe we wouldn't see so many of these types of

so many of these types of crime.

The people that commit these acts know that they will serve a few years in prison if caught and that is all. And before the do gooders start spouting off about human rights, what about the rights of the victims and their distraught families? their distraught families their distraught families? It's about time our govern-ments got tough and started handing out the appropriate punishment for the crime. I HUNTER, Willenhall

m

## Never seen feeding time

ALL this talk about women breast feeding a baby in public, I've been about in my 67 years on this plan-et and I have never seen it done, women used to carry a bottle with them to give the baby a feed. Or don't wom-en these days know how to make a baby's bottle, or is it another thing that stems from America?

When my mother and aunts wanted to breast feed

their babies they went into another room. If they were going out somewhere they would feed the baby first then make a bottle to take

M MASON, Willenhall



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## Chair tells story of actress Madeleine



Senior supervisor Jackie Hawkins next to the talking Madeline Carroll recollection chair at Central Library

TI'S a chair, but not as we know it. This work of art gives a glimpse into the life of one of the Black Country's most famous exports.

It tells the story of West Bromwich actress Madeleine Carroll, who went on to become the highest paid actress it Hollwroad And it is now in place of

on to become the highest paid actress in Hollywood. And it is now in place at West Bromwich Central Library.

It was created by West Bromwich-born artist Hannah Graham.

"Hannah came to us and we thought the idea was fantastic," said Jackie Hawkins, senior supervisor at the library. "Madeleine Carroll was such an interesting figure and one of West Bromwich's most important exports.

"She was born on Herbert Street in 1906 and went on to star in some

next to the talking Madeline Carroll r
of the biggest Hollywood films of that
era, like The 39 Steps and On The
Avenue. After that, she went on to
join the Red Cross during the Second
World War."

The chair, which is unique, features
headphones and a screen which tell
the story of Madeleine Carroll's life.
It was funded by the Arts Council and
production house Black Country Touring. The chair was officially opened by
the Mayor of Sandwell last Monday,
Mrs Hawkins said it has so far
proved a popular attraction.

"Visitors love it, we have even had
pupils from the local Ryder's Green
Primary School come in and they
thought it was fantastic," she said.

The chair is a permanent installa-

tion and will remain at the library. Creator Hannah Graham, who is originally from West Bromwich and now lives in Edgbaston, said she approached Black Country Touring, who are based at the library, in January with the idea.

'The chair took around eight weeks "The chair took around eight weeks to build in total, from figuring out how the iPod in the arm would work to recording the story," Miss Graham said. "Originally we wanted speakers but then we realised that would not work in a library.

"I used to work at the Public gallery,

and although we had a monument to Madeleine Carroll I thought there needed to be more, as she was such a selfless, fascinating woman."

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# Trees damage fury after dogs run riot



Peter Washbrook checks out damage caused to some trees on the Park Hall estate, with Councillor Rose Martin DANGEROUS dogs have savaged trees in a Walsall street

DANGEROUS dogs have savaged trees in a Walsall street, ripping off the bark and destroying at least one, residents have claimed. A maple has been wrecked and is among 10 trunks in Helston Road, Park Hall, with scratch marks. Paddock ward councillor Rose Martin said householders had reported that dogs including a Staffordshire Bull Terrier had been spotted tearing strips of bark from saplings. Councillor Martin said: "This is absolutely terrible. Several others along the road have been vandalised. They are beautiful trees and I'm being told by the residents that dogs are responsible for causing this level of damage. "Whoever is responsible for letting animals like these out should be caught and held to account."

Peter Washbrook, aged 66, whose grand-daughter Amy Hryhoruk, was bitten on the back of her head when she attacked by a Japanese Akita called Diesel, in Rushall, three years ago, said: "There's obviously a dog out of control if it's literally attacking the trees. It's had a go at 10 trees and a hedge and if it's attacking trees it might attack people."

# **Equestrian** group rides high with new factory

AN HISTORIC Walsall firm dating back to 1786 is to move to a new bigger factory after taking over a local rival.

Vale Brothers, of Long Street, bought saddle maker E Jeffries, which was established in 1820 and em-

er E Jeffries, which was established in 1820 and e ploys 51 people at Bridgeman Street, in January. Now, the two factories are to merge on a new site on Jerome Retail Park in Midland Road. Vale Brothers, which specialises in equestrian products, also bought the Harry Dabbs saddle business in Frederick Street, back in 2007. Vale employs 54 people and the two firms will continue to run as separate businesses. There have been no redundancies with the acquisition.

no redundancies with the acquisition.
Vale, which originally started out making horse brushes, now has 14 brands in the group including KBF99 horsecare products, Edward Goddard whips, Equery brushes and Thermatev russ.

uerry brushes and Therma-tex rugs.

Managing director Peter
Wilkes said: "We are look-ing forward to seeing the E
Jeffries brands continue to develop and prosper along-

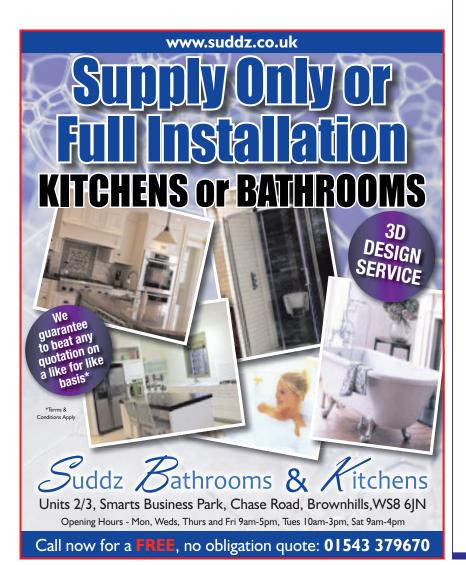
side our successful existing British brands.

"The acquisition will make Vale Brothers the leading force within the saddlery and leisure industry."

The purchase of E Jeffries from Goold Holdings followed months of negotiations and included Jeffries' associated brands, Falcon, Eldonian, Wembley, Wembley Pro and Brady Bags.

Vale Brothers holds a Royal Warrant from Her Majesty The Queen for its Equerry brushes.

In 2001, the company acquired the whip company Edward Goddard and this was followed by the acquisition of rug manufacturing company Thermatex and British saddle manufacturers Harry Dabbs. ers Harry Dabbs.









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Chronicle

## Staff resignations cut redundancies

WALSALL Council bosses say staff resignations have helped to reduce the number of redundancies.

Just under 200 posts are being axed, more than 60 less than initially expected, as the authority looks to save £29m.

Councillor Keith Cham bers, cabinet member for personnel and business support, said: "Of the 258 redundancies identified at the start of the process in October, this figure has now been reduced to 197.

"This is owing to amendments to the budget along with resignations and staff being redeployed."

#### Safety measures on main routes

SAFETY improvements will be carried out on busy roads in Walsall under £120,000 plans.

Traffic islands and new road markings are being earmarked for Coalpool Lane and Goscote Lane over the next 12 months.

There were 19 accidents on the routes between October 2011 and 2014.

# Chapel offers teenage worship after facelift

A NEW church for teenagers is now open for worship at an historic Walsall chapel that has been given a facelift.
Bloxwich Youth Church was launched last month

Bloswich Youth Church was launched last month at St James's. It was set up by parish leaders after the 100-year-old building stopped holding traditional services because of a fall in numbers.

Aimed at teenagers and young adults, the church reopened with a focus on the 13s to 25s age group after ministers spotted a gap in provision.

The site in Old Lane was start at 7pm on Sundays.

The site, in Old Lane, was given a facelift and a special-ist youth team lead services. Team Rector the Rev Roger Williams said: "The building looks brilliant inside, with a

looks brilliant inside, with a whole new room added.
"We have a group of about 20 people in their 20s getting involved. There is a mixture of live music and DJ, plus dance, discussion, prayer." Services

start at 7pm on Sundays. Forthcoming activities will include drum and guitar lessons plus dance workshops There are also plans to run a Youth Alpha course – an introductory meeting about Christian beliefs – featuring discussions and a meal.

More details about the new venture are on social media sites Facebook, Twit-ter and the website bloxwichyouthchurch.com

## Fundraising goal in first half marathon



Adam Jones with his personal trainer Luke Grimley ahead of his half marathon in

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TYRES AT LOW PRICE

FATHER-OF-TWO from heart attack eight years ago is running a half marathon in aid of the British Heart

in aid of the Bruisn reear. Foundation.
Adam Jones is training for the Stratford Half Mar-athon. He will run alongside his brother Tom and broth-er-in-law Liam Reynolds in the 13-mile event on April 26.

26.
Mr Jones, who owns his own building company, has set himself a fundraising target of £3,000.
The 31-year-old, from The Turnberry Estate in Bloxwich is undergoing reasonal.

wich, is undergoing personal training sessions at Fitness First in Cannock.

## **Museum** is among top regional attractions

WALSALL Leather Museum has been voted among the top five per cent of plac-es to visit in the West Mid-lands.

The museum has received The museum has received 100 reviews on TripAdvisor from people who have vis-ited – and loved – the attrac-

tion.

Around 90 per cent of people have given the museum an 'excellent' or 'very good' rating. It is currently ranked in the top five per cent at number 23 of 600 things to do in the West Midlands.

The museum opened in 1988, on the site of a former leatherworks in Littleton Street West.

Leisure chief, councillor Khizar Hussain, said it was a wonderful boost for both the museum and Walsall as a whole. "It is a real acco-lade to be named along the leading visitor attractions in the West Midlands," he said.

## **OPEN DAY**

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# **Medic quits after Nazi** salute during football

## Toll firm boost for rescuers



From left, Kelly Bourne of MEL, and from SSART – Sue and Richard Archer, Dawn Hopley, Matthew Daily-Hunt and David Wright

VOLUNTEERS from Staffordshire Search and Rescue Team (SSART) visited M6 Toll's Head Office in Lichfield to be presented with a cheque for £432.

cneque for £432.
Midland Expressway Limited's (MEL) donation is to be used to fund two essential casualty care medical bags which contain vital equipment including dressings, a trauma mask and oxygen bottle.

SSART is a team of 65 dedicated volunteers with specialist training.

volunteers with specialist training to locate and rescue missing persons in Staffordshire, Founded in 2004. the rescuers respond to call-outs to search for vulnerable people.Kelly

Bourne, MEL Social Committee member said: "It was a pleasure to meet some of the SSART team and gain an understanding of the invaluable work they carry out in the region." the region.

MEL's Social Committee is al-ways on the lookout for local charities and community projects to support.

To register your charity or community project with MEL for consideration to receive fundraising or practical (volunteering) support now or in the future visit www. m6toll.co.uk for further information or telephone 0870 850 6222.

A PARAMEDIC from Walsall who gave a Nazi salute at a German police officer during a football game has quit his job. Aston Villa fan Jason Southall, aged

44, was found guilty of racially aggra-vated harassment South Sefton Mag-

istrates Court.

It followed the incident at his team's match against Liverpool on September 13 last year. But before his employers West

last year. But before his employers West Midland Ambulance Service could take disciplinary action, Southall quit his job. He had denied the charge but was found guilty of the offensive gesture and handed a three-year match ban and fined £500. He was sentenced on Friday March 5. Murray MacGregor, spokesman for West Midlands Ambulance Service said the service was "appalled at the actions of an ambulance emergency medical technician who has been convicted of racially aggravated harassment. harassment.

has been convicted of Latany aggravated harassment.

"The service can confirm that Mr Southall resigned from the Trust with immediate effect before disciplinary action could be taken against him.

"As a trust, such a deeply offensive gesture cannot be condoned and we welcome the actions of Liverpool FC and Merseyside Police to bring this case to court."

The court heard how the hooligan aimed the Nazi salute at Christine Leveth, who was wearing her German Polizei uniform. She was attending the match alongside Merseyside Police officers as part of a course development when she was subjected to the abuse.

The court heard that Ms Leveth did not witness the incident but Liverpool's head

The court heard that Ms Leveth did not witness the incident but Liverpool's head steward Stephen Lawrence said he was 'shocked and appalled' to see Southall with his head bowed and a 'rigid' body. Following the conviction, detective chief inspector Andy O'Connor, of Merseyside Police, said: "This was a despicable crime against a police officer visiting this city who was simply trying to go about her job and develop her skills."

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# **Couple mark 60 years** together after chivalry

with an old-fashioned gentlemanly gesture saw Hazel and John Ferguson on their way to their diamond wedding an-

niversary.

The couple celebrated 60 years of marriage with their friends, neighbours and family at their home in Wednessfield recently.

They grew up in Willenhall and met while Hazel, nearly 16 at the time, was walking home from meeting a friend. She said: "A man had asked if he could walk me home and I politely refused. John and one of his friends saw this and made sure I got back safe. I thought it was very kind of them."

The pair bumped into one another around town from time to time, before John asked if he could take Hazel on a date to the cinema.

date to the cinema.

#### Compromise

Hazel said: "I think I knew from the

Hazel said: "I think I knew from the first date that we would be together for a long time, we just got on so well. We went on plenty of dates after that, either to the cinema or on walks and we always had a great time together."

John, now 84 and Hazel, 80, were married at St Giles Church in Willenhall on March 12 1965.

They put their long term happiness down to a busy social life and always finding a compromise to make each other happy. John said: "We both look after one another, we give and take and I have always been happy with what we have."

Both enjoyed a variety of jobs

what we have."
Both enjoyed a variety of jobs throughout their careers. John worked for Darlaston engineering company Rubery Owen for a number of years, followed by a time at Weldless Steel in Wednesfield, while Hazel worked for companies including lock and key makers CE Marshall's and TC Morris butchers.





## **Engineering enrolments up**

WALSALL College has seen a huge rise in students enrolling on its engi-neering apprenticeships. Since September there has already been a 33 per cent increase in stu-dents enrolling on to the college's two and three engineering apprentice-ships in comparison to the total num-ber of apprentices enrolled in the last vear academic vear.

James Norris, assistant principal for commercial development at Wal-sall College, said: "We've also received

hundreds of enquiries from current year 11 pupils in the borough expressing an interest in gaining entry in to the engineering industry.
"Pursuing an engineering career will not only help to revive our local economy but it could also be a very lucrative path for students to follow."

The college also invested £300,000 in a new state-of-the-art engineering.

in a new state-of-the-art engineering and manufacturing workshop at its Green Lane campus last year to sup-port its growth in apprenticeships.

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## Keep store plea after sale of BHS chain



Business leaders are urging BHS owners to keep Walsall's town centre store open after the chain was sold for £1

NEW BHS owners are being urged to keep its store in Walsall after the chain was sold for £1. The struggling retailer has been offloaded to the stockbroker-led consortium Retail Acquisitions.

tail Acquisitions.
The sale has sparked fears over the future of BHS stores across the Black Country, including in Park Street. Walsall Council's regeneration chief, councillor Mohammad Nazir, said: "BHS is a well known name. We want that to be a

part of the town centre." BHS has suffered heavy financial losses in recent years, including a £21m hit in 2014.

Keith Smith, chairman of Retail Acquisitions, said: "This

Reth Smith, chairman of Retail Acquisitions, said: 1 ms is a fantastic opportunity to breathe new life into this iconic British high street brand.

"We are convinced that with strategic and focussed support we will return BHS to profitability, and safeguard the workforce."

# after sex attack

A 26-YEAR-old woman was sexually assaulted as she cut through an alley in Wednesbury.

The victim was attacked as she made her way between Redhouse Avenue and Pound Road just after 9pm on Monday March 9.

bury.

The victim was attacked as she made her way between Redhouse Avenue and Pound Road just after 9pm

on Monday, March 9.

The offender is understood to be an Eastern European man in his late 30s or early 40s, around 6ft tall and slim.

"We're widening our appeal from within the immediate area and asking anyone who was in the area at the time

ficers to come forward. I need anyone who saw the woman before the attack who saw the woman before the attack or immediately after to call me. I am also keen to hear from anyone who's seen a man matching the description provided by the victim."

The man smelled of alcohol and cig-

arettes and was believed to have been wearing a brown leather jacket with a pale stripe, black shoes and dark coloured jeans.













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## Cannon fires rider Julie to success



Julie Griffiths from Chuckery and her horse Cannor

Julie Griffiths from Chuckery and her horse Cannon A WALSALL woman has seen her horse gallop to success in a national competition.

Julie Griffiths took the reins on Cannon, who only has one eye, at Sport Endurance, a series of long distance races around the country.

After taking part for 10 years, it is the first time Miss Griffiths and Cannon have bagged first place — and in 16-year-old Cannon's final year before retiring. They have previously finished third and fourth.

Julie, aged 46, of Chuckery, said: "I had Cannon when he was four years old. He was destined for the slaughterhouse. "He was a standard bred racing horse but didn't meet the grade. We started doing sport endurance 10 years ago."

Races, which take place over 12 months, can be up to 50 miles long and take around four hours to complete. Julie and Cannon raced against around 60 other competitors.

Julie picked up her Sport Endurance national champion award at a ceremony in Derby. She won a rug and jacket for Cannon and a trophy. Julie also picked up three other trophies.

She added: "It's amazing considering he only has one

trophies.

She added: "It's amazing considering he only has one eye. He lost it when he was 10. He knocked it on the ferry coming over to England from Holland when we first got him. It troubled him for years and he had to have it out as it was causing him pain."

# **Swimming** pool in line for facelift

A £1M revamp at Walsall Gala Baths will see new water features, better changing rooms and a learner pool.

The outdated 50-year-old building is being earmarked for an upgrade after Walsall Council vowed

to invest in the prominent town centre site.

Plans include fresh water play features in the brine pool, bistro seating area and male and female changing area.

The matter was being considered by the council's cabinet yesterday (Wednesday) and, subject to approval, work could start as capter or part month.

proval, work could start as early as next month.

The money for the project has been set aside as part of the capital programme and would take up to three months to complete

## Option

Planned improvements include a new reception foyer and entrance area and installation of a fixed boom into the gala pool to create a learner pool.

It comes as almost £24m It comes as almost 2.4m is being invested in creating two new leisure centres at Bloxwich and Oak Park. The council will look at the option of keeping at least one of the two pools open

#### **By Craig Hughes**

ruption to users. Otherwise the building could be closed until the summer.

Leisure chief, councillor Khizar Hussain said: "The existing Gala Baths build-ing was opened in 1961 and has been in need of improve-ments for a long time.
"We may leaking to greate

"We are looking to create a portfolio of leisure facili-ties in Walsall which meet modern day standards."

The prospect of transforming the outdated Tower Street building was first raised more than 18 months ago. A 2,000-name petition was collected in 2013 after public concerns that it may close.

## Market stalls expected to move

COUNCILLORS were this week expected to give the nod to plans to relocate a dozen market stalls and two catering vehicles in Walsall town centre. The council's cabinet was expected to agree to the changes at a meeting yesterday (Wednesday). They will allow work to begin on a £12m complex in St Matthews Quarter, which will see shops and restaurants created.



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Fausto Aloia filling barrels at Holdens Brewery in Woodsetton



Bottles of ale being prepared by Holden's staff ready to distribute throughout the Midlands

# **Cheers – raise a glass** to brewery centenal

THE brewing industry has changed dramatically over the last 100 years – but one of the Black Country's best known firms remains as pop-

ular as ever. Holden's is celebrating its centenary year, and from humble beginnings the family-run business is now expanding as drinkers return to real ale.

Although the equipment at its site has become more modern, bosses are

keeping traditions alive despite seeing production soar. The essence of the brewing process remains the same as it has for decades, though the scale has increased.

increased. One of just 33 family-owned independent breweries in Britain with 20 pubs across the Black Country, Holden's expansion will see its base at the Park Inn, Sedgley Road, Woodsetton, extended and its ale production increased from 50,000 pints a week to 75 000

A new tank room will be completed, increasing capacity by 50 per cent. New micro breweries such as the

Backyard Brewhouse in Brownhills

are building up a reputation but the Holden family say few can match their history and pedigree.

The extension has been built at the rear of the site, in George Street, and will see extra fermentation tanks installed.

stalled.

Director Abi Kemp, whose great-grandmother Lucy was a driving force behind establishing the brewery in 1915, said: "It is a really exciting year for us and it's lovely that we still have family members running the business.

have family members running the business.
"We are moving forward but we are a family business with a lot of history. We want to celebrate the last 100 years and give people the chance to learn about how the company has developed."

As part of the latest revamp, the old warehouses at The Park Inn were taken down and rebuilt a new twe sto-

taken down and rebuilt, a new two storey office block was constructed on the tanks installed. A test kitchen, bottle store and office suite are also part of the three-storey development.

Managing director Jonothan Holden said: "There has been a resurgence in the popularity of ales in recent time and this has been a massive benefit to us. This expansion is necessary for us to build on the business."

The browery has a popular line of its.

us. This expansion is necessary for us to build on the business."

The brewery has a popular line of its own bottled beer now, but bosses say they want to keep focusing on draught in pubs to keep the industry going.

The Park Inn is steeped in history, with photographs of the Holden family, their workers and changes to the brewery displayed through the pub.

The brewery is hosting an open day on July 18 and 19 with guided tours and a mini beer festival.

Among other plans to mark the centenary is an ale around each of the company's 20 pubs. Those who complete the tour can then swap their completed card for Holden's centenary memorabilia. And a new brew is being created in honour of former West Bromwich Albion hero Tony Brown, called mwich Albion hero Tony Brown, called Bomber Brown.



Therese Holden, Abi Kemp and Jonothan Holde



The office and shop of Holden's Brewery, which is this year marking its centenary



SMOKERS are being urged to stub out the habit – by a councillor and former pipe user who once saw it burn his leg. Councillor Keith Chambers began with

Councillor Keth Chambers began with cigarettes and then turned to smoking a pipe at the age of 21 – paying no attention to the cost or health impact.

The grandfather who serves the Bentley and Darlaston North ward at Walsall Council said: "Packing up smoking is without a doubt the best thing I ever did. When

stand why I took it up because I do feel so much better.

"I can remember going on a trip to Europe with friends and suddenly feeling pain in my leg. This was because I'd put my pipe in my pocket and it wasn't quite out so it was burning my leg."

He is encouraging more people who want to quit smoking to visit the www.walsall. gov.uk website or call 01922 444044.

# **Model pack lights** up hot campaign



Back, from left, Hannah Chrum from Walsall Youth Support, Darren Tonks, Graham Steele, Amber Jade Cotterill. Front, Tom Robbins, Reece Follows and Leeoni Carter

#### PUPILS in Darlaston are urging smokers to stub out the habit.

Students at Grace Academy have been working with youth workers as part of a smoking awareness pro-

as part of a smoking awareness programme.

The children created a model of a pack of cigarettes displaying the harmful substances to be found in them.

Information is located around the model concealed under flaps. When lifted they reveal the chemicals found in a cigarette.

It is hoped the model will be informative and also deter other pupils from lighting up. It will be displayed in Grace Academy as a piece of educational art work.

The project involving youngsters with the support of youth workers in the borough was linked in with national No Smok-

obbins, Reece Follows and Leeoni Carter ing Day, which this year was on March 11. In Walsall, a week of events involving the health bus took place to raise awareness of the impacts of smoking.

Councillor Barbara Cassidy, cabinet member for children's services, said: "We have a duty to help keep Walsall's children and young people healthy.

"I welcome the support of young people to help us spread this important message about the dangers of smoking."

Events to mark No Smoking Day were held at St Paul's Square in Walsall town centre, Bloxwich fire station and Walsall Housing Group in Hatherton Street.

Information on the range of free support available for smokers in Walsall is available through the http://cms.walsall.gov.uk smoking cessation services contact information.pdf web page or call 01922 444044.



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## New group is keen to tackle traffic issues

Praise for bus campaign

AN MP has praised the efforts of bus campaigners after they handed in a petition to the Government. 'I Love Bus Pass' campaigners are fighting to keep bus travel free for pensioners and set off from Walsall to deliver a petition of

pensioners and set off from Waisail to deliver a petition of nearly 200,000 signatures to 10 Downing Street. Walsall North MP David Winnick said: "I campaigned for this travel concession for pensioners before the bus pass was actually brought in. The campaign, led in Walsall by Richard Worrall, helps to sustain the pressure that there

Wife pays

tribute to

ex-football

ace Hughes

A FORMER footballer who has died at the age of 85, was described as the 'perfect hus-

Forward Jack Hughes scored 10 goals in 44 games over three years with the Saddlers in the 1950s. He was remembered at Fellows Park his skill and drib-

bling abilities.
After retiring from football he went to work in steel factory and lived with his wife
Janet in Greets Green, West

band' in a tribute from his widow.

Bromwich.

She remembered going to watch her husband play in Walsall, despite actually being a West Bromwich Albion supporter herself.

Mr Hughes died on February 23 from heart failure. He had been suffering with a long illness. His funeral service was held at West Bromwich Crematorium on Monday.

Bromwich Crematorium on Monday. Mrs Hughes said: "He was laid back. He wasn't one for dashing up and down the field. He focused on accu-

racy, he was very good at passing and heading."

Debut

Mr Hughes was an instant hit at Walsall, scoring on his debut against Port Vale. He scored five more times

in that first season, 1950/51.

After leaving Walsall, he played in the lower leagues with Stourbridge, Worcester City and Evesham United.

Among memories that stick out for Mrs Hughes was watching her husband play in a competition called the Festival of Britain, which was organised by the Football Association in

1951.
"I remember a game that took place as part of the Festival of Britain and he

scored a goal in that game if I remember rightly.

Bromwich.

should be no change at all in this issue

A COMMUNITY group set up in Walsall aims to tackle traffic problems and anti-so-cial behaviour.

The issues are being targeted by Leamore Commu-nity Group, which holds meetings at Pembroke House on the second Tuesday of each month.

The group has only been established for a couple of months but has already run a speed campaign in Somerfield Road and been lobbying Walsall Council on the sale of alcohol when licensing shops in the area.

Birchills and Leamore

councillor Chris Jones said: "We helped to set up this group in response to the

many enquiries received by my colleagues, Councillors Tina Jukes and Lee Jeav-

Ex-player Jack Hughes

"That is what sticks out in my mind," she said. "He had a good height so was very good at heading the ball."

Mr Hughes was born in

Mr Hughes was born in West Bromwich in 1929 and went to All Saints School in the town. His progress as a footballer was interrupted by national service.

After leaving the army he interrupt forms for the service of t

After leaving the army he signed on amateur forms for his home town team.

But with first team opportunities appearing slim, he left to join Walsall.

Mr and Mrs Hughes married in 1952 and had two children, Jane and Jill. Mr Hughes also leaves four grandchildren and two great grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mrs Hughes said: "He was a fantastic husband and a fantastic grandfather and

a fantastic grandfather and great grandfather. He was the most reliable man."

ons.
"Anti-social behaviour and littering are problems within the Leamore area so we decided to replicate the success of a similar group I have helped run in the

I have helped run in the Birchills area.
"We hope to make real improvements for the residents and businesses of Leamore. But any group is only as good as the people that are involved so we are asking people to join up and help us deliver a better Leamore for all." more for all.

For more details call 07713 669706.



Children's author Michael Rosen is putting on a special reading of his work at The Wacky Warehouse, Willenhall

reading of his work at The Wacky Warehouse, Willenhall CHILDREN'S author Michael Rosen will put on a special reading for the winners of a storytelling competition at a Willenhall play centre. The We're Going on a Bear Hunt creator has joined forces with Broadway Wacky Warehouse, in Lichfield Road, to find aspiring writers aged four to 10. Three winning stories from the pub chain will be published in an official story book. In addition, the winning story will be displayed on a wall and the child's family will also receive free entry to Wacky Warehouse for a year and £50 worth of Fayre & Square vouchers.

Mr Rosen said: "I've always been keen to encourage children to explore their thoughts and ideas, and really enjoy their imagination."

General manager Gavin Salter said: "With our Wacky

their imagination."
General manager Gavin Salter said: "With our Wacky Wordsmiths competition, not only do the children have the chance to express themselves with us physically in our play centres, but they can also get their creative juices flowing."
Parents should to complete the application form online before March 22 at www.wackywarehouse.co.uk

# **New hall is** planned to add space for pupils

A SCHOOL in Walsall had lodged plans to build a new multi-purpose hall and changing rooms after almost doubling the amount of pupils it takes in the past 60 years.

The plans, which have been submitted are for Mayfield Preparatory School. The current school hall was built in the 1950s and has been described as 'not fit for purpose'.

The school, in Sutton Road, had around 120 pupils when the hall was built but new hub, a new facility to them are supported by the school of the sch

there are now more than

200 students. 200 students.

According to the plans, the new hall would have a sprung wooden floor and be used for indoor sports, music concerts, drama productions, parent workshops and prize-giving events.

It would include tiered, retreatable seating and

retractable seating and there would be separate changing facilities for boys, girls, male and female staff. There would also be a

There would also be a reception area, toilets and a viewing gallery. A report lodged with the plans states: "The proposed multi-purpose hall is a necessity. The school has outgrown the existing hall built in the 1950s. Mayfield Preparatory School needs a new school hall, a

new hub, a new facility to cater for the various and numerous activities which take place."

take place."

The report says that due to health and safety considerations, only half a class is able to do gymnastics in the hall at one time and pupils have to change in classrooms for PE due to the lack of facilities. It added: "The school population has grown to over 200 pupils and 50 part-time and full-time staff. At lunchtimes, there are three dimner sittings because there is not enough space for the whole school.

"The school hall is just about large enough for whole school assemblies, but not large enough to ac-

but not large enough to ac-commodate children and parents."



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# **Heading for new** career as stylist

## COMMERCIAL **FEATURE**

IF YOU have a yearning to be the next big thing in hairdressing you are invited to come and find out more at Peter Pyne Training open days on March 30 and April 8. Peter Pyne have opened a brand new training academy in the heart of Walsall's town centre. They have been in business since 1965 and have always remained a fam-

1965 and have always remained a fam-ily-owned business which means that they take the success of their appren-

they take the success or tneir appreintices very seriously.

They offer a their apprentices unrivalled teaching by tutors with years of hairdressing experience in some of the midlands top salons along with a guarated with alphanement. anteed work placement.

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ticeship with Peter Pyne or a course at college is that they will support their students not only in the classroom but in the real world of work. Young people who take up the opportunity of an apprenticeship will come out of the course with a real qualification (NVQ level 2 /3) and over 12 months experience of working within a real salon.

You don't have to have any specific qualifications to get on the training courses, what is more important is a real desire to succeed and the right attitude.

They match each of their students with a placement in a salon that suits the individuals needs and aspirations which means their apprentices have a



Filippo Pepe, academy junior stylist

huge success rate in gaining full time

employment.
Peter Pyne have trained thousands
of young hairdressers throughout their
50 years in business and will take students from any background.
Among their recent batch of students

are Lauren Cuthbert and Filippo Pepe. are Lauren Cutribert and Filippo Pepe.
Lauren started a hairdressing course
at college but felt that the standard of
teaching and the support that she got
wasn't up to the standard she expected so she decided to train with Peter
Pyne instead, she is now a junior stylist

\*\*The December 1000 in More Sylist

\*\*The De



Lauren Cuthbert - NVQ Apprentice

wich and is studying hard to gain her level 3 NVQ to become a senior stylist.

level 3 NVQ to become a senior stylist. Filippo Pepe is another success story and testament to how Peter Pyne really takes care of their trainees, after his previous salon was unable to carry on his placement he was taken on as a junior stylist at the training centre itself and is also now studying hard to be-come a senior stylist.

If you feel like you have the dedica-tion and desire to become one of our next success stories come along to the open day and see where an apprenat the Peter Pyne Salon in West Bromticeship with Peter Pvne can lead vou.







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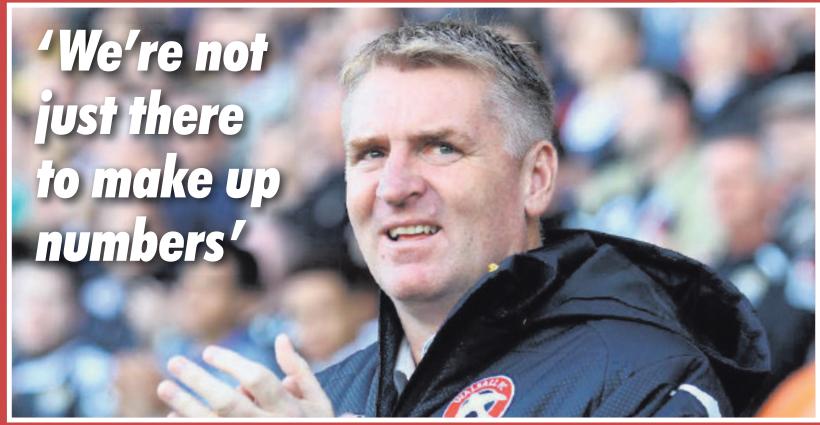




# 

MARCH 22, 2015





# **WE'RE GOING THE**

WALSALL manager Dean Smith has his sights set firmly on Wembley glory as he insists: "We're going there to win.".

The Saddlers make their first-ever appearance at the home of English football this Sunday in the Johnstone's Paint Tro-

They go into the showdown with League One leaders Bristol City as definite underdogs but Smith is adamant they are not just going to make up the numbers.

"You don't often get a chance to win a trophy in football," he said.

This season someone will win the Premier League, there will be a winner in each division, the FA Cup and the League Cup. Then there is this competition.

"We have a 50/50 chance . We want to go there and win the trophy.

"It is all right getting there and I'm re-

ally pleased for everyone at the club to finally get to Wembley but for us it is about going and winning the trophy now."

Becoming the first manager to lead the club to Wembley is a source of considerable pride for Smith, who started his playing career with the Saddlers when just a

And he sees Sunday's game as a chance to give something back.

He added: "The club gave me my first

chance in football. I came here having had failed trials elsewhere.
"I was among 100 kids and Stan Jones

said you are not playing midfield, get to the

"I must have done OK because within a few months I was playing for the first team. That is how quickly it happens. "Sometimes you need a lucky break and

this club gave me a lucky break. This is a small token I can give back

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OOK OUT FOR THE EVERY WEDNESDAY



Nicos Christodoulou from Streetly has written a Walsall FC balti pie song for Wembley

## Nicos on the ball-ti as he hits the pie charts

musician Nicos Christodoulou penned a ditty about balti pies served to fans eight years ago, lit-tle did he think it would end up on the internet.

the internet.

But after the Saddlers made it to the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final the singer, also known as the 'Greek Entertainer', dug out the original chorus and added the verses that have so far attracted more than 500 likes on YouTube. Nicos, who once introduced

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young players to the club including former player Richard Tawndry, says he is over the moon the side will play Bristol City at Wembley.

### Drawer

"I wrote the chorus a few years ago when they started selling them at the Banks's Stadium.

To be honest I put it away in a drawer, but when they got through to the semi-finals I thought if they score a goal it would be nice to dig out that song about the balti pies.

"It's just a bit of fun, something positive to sing about on the terraces and it will be nice and light-hearted for the children to sing about pies I think," Nicos, of Streetly, says.

Also a qualified coach he helped to run the Colron FC junior teams based in Streetly until a decade ago.

"Football's in the blood. I've been a Saddlers fan for a long time. I wrote the song for a laugh, but I'm pleased that people like it.

"My son Matthew, 26, recorded it," he added.





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An Express & Star supplement



# The Chronicle Thursday, March 19, 2015

# heers — as fait is paint tow

RAISE a glass to the boys. A brewery is helping Saddlers' fans celebrate their team's historic achievement by stocking a special commemorative ale.

The Backyard Brewhouse has rolled out a limited edition ale to commemorate Walsall's historic trip to Wembley.

The brewery, the only one in Walsall, released its Super Saddlers ale to pubs for the lead up to the Johnstone's Paint Tro-

dlers ale to pubs for the lead up to the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final.

Meanwhile Hoppy the hippo is red-dy to support the Saddlers after being kitted out in club colours ahead of Wembley. The iconic sculpture has been temporarily coated in Walsall FC red.

And going that extra mile for the club is lifelong Saddlers fan Graeme Brookes who used to go to matches with his grandfather and is walking to Wembley in his memory.

Graeme Brookes said the 138-mile trek was the perfect way to remember Ronald Brookes, who followed the team for 83 years—despite being deaf and blind. The trek is to raise money for the Walsall Society for the Blind.



MD Austen Morgan and assistant brewer Mikey almer from Backyard Brewhouse, Brownhills, who are making a Super Saddlers beer



eme Brookes who will be walk-ing to Wembley for charity



Artist Saz Watts, who has painted the Walsall hippo outside the library in Lichfield Street to celebrate the Saddlers getting to Wembley

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## **WALSALL AT WEMBLEY**



On the ball - Tracey Ball waves the flags, just some of the merchandise on offe

# Flying the flag for club

BRIGHT red scarves, banners, flags and even a wedding dress are on show all over Walsall as the town flies the flag for the Saddlers.

And the icing on the red velvet cake was the Johnstone's Paint Trophy itself parading through the town before making a tantalising appearance at the Banks's Stadium.

As part of the celebrations, businesses, schools and charity shops are getting all decked out in red banners, flags and bunting.

Walsall supporter and great-grandmother-of-four Edna Sutton has already bought herself a special Walsall shirt to wear and will be cheering on the team on Sunday.

The 83-year-old, of Bloxwich Road, Leamore, said: "It's marvellous. I'm a big fan and so are my sons and grandsons."

Staff at Arcade Florist, in The Arcade, have made a special Saddlers floral arrangement to display.



Plenty of ways for fans to show their support from flag seller William Newbold



Katie Parker arranges the Walsall FC wedding dress in the window of Jeneve











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# Suited and booted for a Sunday best

signer Luke Roper has fitted out the Saddlers stars for

their Wembley suits.
Walsall-born Luke has created a slate grey suit with crisp white shirt for the historic trip to the home of football for the Johnston Philip Tember final

home of football for the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final.

The team and manager Dean Smith were measured with the modern design getting the thumbs up.

Luke, whose Luke1977 creations are loved by celebrities, has stores in Merry Hill and Birmingham's Bull-

## **Projects**

He said: "I was born and raised in the town and grew up in Walsall Wood where I went to school. "We've come for the first fitting for the team and the staff for the Wemb-ley final. It's great to support Walsall with the brand.
"Wo do lots of wrojects further afield."

with the brand.

"We do lots of projects further afield off course and overseas, so it's good to be able to do something locally.

"I will be going to Wembley. We have a few commitments abroad before then, but I'll definitely be back."

Walsall winger James Baxendale, aged 22, said: "It's a really nice suit. I really like it. I think it's got a lovely slim cut which is all the prage at the slim cut which is all the rage at the

moment.
"We'll be looking really sharp in them for the final.
James Chambers said: "The outfit is very nice. All the lads are thrilled with the slim leg style. We're looking forward to arriving at Wembley wearing it. We'll be looking really sharp."



Luke Roper visits the Banks's Stadium to measure the team up for Wembley. He is next to Dean Smith and Adam Chambers

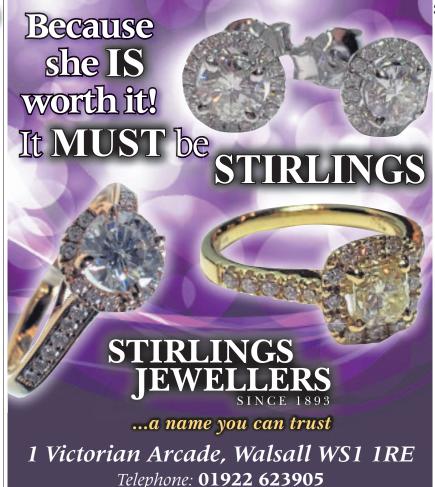




James Chambers checks himself out



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# **Fundraising shirt that** will suit fans – to a

urged to snap up a special T-shirt to mark the Wembley final and support a charity that aids autistic youngsters.

Lifelong Walsall FC supporter and graphic designer Craig Coley came up with the idea for the shirt which is being sold in aid of West Midlands Autism.

His son Samuel, aged seven, has the condition and Mr Coley, 35, thought

the game that will see the team play at Wembley for the first time in its 127-year history was a good way to raise much-needed funds for the society. His creative design features the phrase 'Walsall FC is for Life Not Just for Wembley'.

#### **Dedicated**

The first garment was bought by dedicated club fan Luke Gibbons.

Mr Coley, now of Derbyshire, grew up in the Wednesbury area where members of his family still live.

"My son is autistic and I've never had the opportunity to raise money for a good cause before, but when we made the final I thought it was a bril-

made the inail I thought it was a bril-liant way to support the charity which helps families and support the side at the same time.

"I did some research on social media and quite a few of the fans responded. I designed the T-shirt and I hope peo-ple will put some orders in."

All proceeds will go to West Mid-lands Autism. Order at www.walsall.

spreadsheet.co.uk

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#### **CHOICE**



**David Starkey** 

#### Richard III: The Princes in the Tower

(Channel 4, 9.00pm) In the week of the reburial of Richard III at Leicester Cathedral, this dramadocumentary explores the events of 1483, when he put 12-year-old Edward V and younger brother Richard of Shrewsbury into the Tower of London. Weeks later, he pronounced himself king and the boys were never again. For more than 500 years it has been thought by some that the monarch killed his own nephews to take the throne, while others believe no crime took place - and that the youngsters lived anonymously into old age. Hearing from experts including David Starkey and Philippa Gregory, the programme tests

the competing theories.

#### BBC<sub>1</sub>

6.00 Breaktast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen
Live. 11.30 Football Focus. 12.00 BBC
News; Weather. 12.10 Live Six Nations
Rugby Union. Italy Wales (Kick-off
12.30pm). The final day of the
championship gets under way with this
clash at the Stadio Olimpico, as Wales
look for a third way win of the
tournament. 2.25 Live Six Nations
Rugby Union. Scotland v Ireland (Kickoff 2.30pm). Coverage of the second of
doay's three fixtures comes from
Murrayfield, as the nations play their
final match of the campaign. 4.30 Live
Six Nations Rugby Union. England v
France (Kick-off 5.00pm). This year's
championship reaches a climax at
Twickenham, where the final standings
will be decided.
7.00 BBC News. will be decided.
7.00 BBC News.
7.10 Regional Programme.

7.15 The Voice UK. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the first live round of the singing contest, in which the 12 remaining acts perform for a place in the semi-final. After all three acts in each team have performed, Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Rita Ora and Ricky Wilson will choose one to progress straight through to the next stage of the competition – leaving the remaining two on each team to go head to head in a

9.15 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin pushes the buttons to reveal the results of the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

Thunderball draws.

9.25 The Voice UK Results. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes announce the result of the public vote to decide which four acts will be going home – leaving Tom Jones, Will.am, Rita Ora and Ricky Wilson with just two each for next week's semi-fined.

10.00 BBC News: Weather.

12.00 Match the Day Gary Lineker.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.
10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Newcastle United v Arsenal and Manchester City v West Bromwich Albion; National Lottery Update.

11.45 The Football League Show.
Manish Bhasin presents highlights
and all the goals from the latest fixtures.

1xtures.

1.05 Film: Virus. (1999) A salvage tug crew boards an abandoned Russian vessel and encounters a deadly alien life form composed of pure energy. Sci-fi thriller, with Jamie Lee Curtis. 2.35 Weather for the Week Ahead. 2.40 BBC News.

#### BBC<sub>2</sub>

7.10 Film: Safari. (1956) 8.40 Six Nations Rewind. (R) 9.40 The Fred Dibnah Story. (R) 10.10 Fred Dibnah's Magnificent Monuments. (R) 10.40 The Nature of Britain. (R.) 0.4 Taste of Britain. 12.30 A Taste of Britain. 12.30 Alec Guinness: Talking Pictures. (R) 1.10 Film: The Man in the White Suit. (1951) Sattircal Ealing comedy. with Alec Guinness. 2.35 Film: Filipit of the Navigator. (1986) Sci-fi adventure, with Joey Cramer. 4.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 Flog It! 6.15 Gardeners' World. Monty Don tries to review the fortunes of the

tries to revive the fortunes of the once-popular chrysanthemum, while Joe Swift has suggestions for viewers thinking of giving their garden a bit of a spring revamp.

6.45 Kew on a Plate. Chef Baymond Kew on a Plate. Chef Raymond Blanc and broadcaster Kate Humble spend a year at the Royal Botanic Bardens in Richmond upon Thames, south-west London, to try to re-stablish the long-lost fruit and vegetable plots that once provided produce for the royal table. In the first episode, spring has arrived and Raymond harvests rhubard and plants asparagus crowns, while Kate discovers how war with France turned Britain into a nation of potato eaters. (R) potato eaters, (R)

7.45 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring initiates a recruitment campaign, but makes the mistake of leaving Wilson in charge of the poster. (R) 8.15 Murder on the Victorian Railway.

Drama-documentary examining the death of banker Thomas Briggs in July 1864, which was the first murder to be committed on a British train. (R)

on a British train. (R)

9.15 Film: Now is Good. (2012)
Premiere. A 17-year-old girl is
diagnosed with terminal
leukaemia, and decides to make
the most of the few months she
has left, working her way through
a list of life-changing experiences
that most people have during their
teenage years. Meanwhile, her
parents and brother each try to
cope with the impending loss in
their own way. Drama, starring
Dakota Fanning. Olivia Williams
and Paddy Considine.

10.50 Film: Girl with a Pearl Earring.

10.50 Film: Girl with a Pearl Earring. (2003) Period drama, with Scarlett Johansson and Tom Wilkinson. 12.25 Film: Michael Collins. (1996) 2.25

6.00 CITV- Bottom Knocker Street. 6.10
Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.20 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R)
6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Calminals. (R)
7.18 Sootly. (R) 23 Signed Stories:
Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled!:
Morsters. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!:
Horrid Henry. 8.50 Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.36 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.36 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 14.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 14.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 14.36 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.36 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.36 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 14.36 T 

Weather.

6.00 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents. (R)

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. Stephen Mulhern finds himself at the mercy of the Geordie duo as they once again go undercover, Ashley Roberts oversees this week's round of Ant v Dec, and the guest announcer is v Dec, and the guest announcer is this year's Oscars host Neil Patrick Harris, getting in some practice before he takes the reins of the before he takes the reins of the American version of Saturday Night Takeaway. Plus, the Supercomputer hits the road again and a member of the studio audience plays to win the contents of a commercial break. You're Back in the Room. Five contestants team up to complete

contestants team up to complete four challenges, including serving pints to Coronation Street stars past and present. Phillip Schofield hosts the hypnotism game show.

9.25 The Jonathan Ross Show. Russell Crowe talks about The Water Diviner, Elizabeth Hurley discusses The Royals and Lily James reveals what it was like to play Cinderella.

what it was like to play Cinderella.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 Film: Burn After Reading. (2008)
Two gym employees get hold of
the manuscript for a CIA agent's
tell-all book and try to sell the
secrets it contains. The Coen
brothers' comedy, with Brad Pitt.

12.30 Jackpot247, 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA, (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen

#### **CHANNEL 4**

C. TANKEL 4
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Revolution Series. 8.00 The Morning
Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
G. T. S. Cycling:
G. S. T. Cycling:
G. G. S. T. Cycling:
G. S. T. Cycli

6.40 Channel 4 News

6.4U Channel 4 News.
7.05 Selling Off Britain. Will Hutton argues that business leaders and politicians are selling off some of Britain's best companies for a quick and easy profit, creating a dumbed-down, low-wage Britain.

wage Britain.

The World's Weirdest Weather.
Icebergs explode into housands
of pieces in Antarctica, locals film
a rare snowstorm in the Saudi
Arabian desert, and more than
10,000 seabirds are killed off the
north-west coast of America when
storms chum up algae in the
waters, creating deadly sea foam.
In Canada, tourists witness a fullcircle airabow, and a firefibilite in 8.00 ... oanaua, tourists Witness a full-circle rainbow, and a firefighter in Texas is caught up in a wave of hail so large that it shuts down the highway.

Richard III: The Princes in the Tower. In the week of the reburial of Richard III at Leicester 9.00 Cathedral, this drama-documentary explores the events of 1483, when he put 12-year-old Edward V and younger brother Richard of Shrewsbury into the Tower of London. Weeks later, he pronounced himself king and the pronounced himself king and the boys were never seen again. For more than 500 years it has been thought by some that the monarch killed his own nephews to take the throne, while lothers believe no crime took place – and that the youngsters lived anonymously into old age.

10.00 Film: Abraham Lincoln: Yampire Hunter. (2012) Premiere. Fantasy.

10.00 Film: Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter. (2012) Premiere. Fantasy thriller, starring Benjamin Walker and Dominic Cooper. 12.05 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) 1.05 Film: Stakeout. (1987) 3.05 Hollyoaks. (R) 5.15 Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) 5.30 The Common Denominator. (R) 5.55 NFL: Rush Zone

#### **CHANNEL 5**

6.00 Milkshake! 10.10 SpongeBob SquarePants. 10.45 Film: Alpha and Omega. (2010) 12.25 Film: Columbo: The Conspirators. (1978) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. 2.25 Holiday Love Rats Exposed. (R) 3.25 The Woman with 40 Cats—and Other Pet Woman with 40 Cats – and Other Pet Hoarders. (R) 4.25 GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) 5.25 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)

6.20 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Mike Allonby and Terry Jones repossess debtors' cars in Cheshire and Liverpool. (R)

7.10 Police Interceptors. A foul-mouthed pensioner pushes Barry's patience to the limit, Sarah gives a bad-boy biker an early birthday present and Jim's Audi S3 is outclassed by a car 30 years its senior. (R)

8.00 5 News Weekend.

8.05 NCIS. A marine's teeth and fingertips are found in a pickpocket's stolen purse, but the have been his ex-girlfriend, a skilled player of computer games.

9.00 NCIS. The agents learn one of their former investigative assistants has been murdered, and had been selling information and had been sening information about how to rob a warehouse full of valuable possessions belonging to a woman convicted of fraud. As the case proceeds, Tony becomes infatuated with the new leader of another team, who apparently returns his feelings. (R)

returns nis teelings. (H)

10.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.
DB and the team investigate the
murder of an inmate at Clark
County Jail and learn the victim
was working as an informant for
the district attorney and the FBI.

was wolking as a minorimant to lithe the district attorney and the FBI.

10.55 Law & Order: Special Victims
Unit. Benson and Stabler investigate when a woman appears on a family's doorstep claiming to be their missing daughter, and says she had been abducted and kept as sex slave. (R)

11.50 True Crimes: The First 72 Hours. Investigating whether a movie called The Great Despisers motivated an act of violence in which a teenager's father, mother and autistic sister were brutally murdered. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 The Benefits Estate. (R) 4.00 The Gadgete Show. (R)

4.50 Make H Big. (R) 5.15 Angels of Jam.. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

#### **DIGITAL**

7.00 World's Craziest Fools 8.00 Top Gear 9.00 Russell Howard's Good News 10.00 Film: Fright Night (2011) 11.40 Family Guy 1.50 Bluestone 42 2.20 Uncle 2.50 Russell Howard's Good News 3.50 Close RRC Four

BBC Four
7.00 Chemistry – A Volatile History 8.00
Lost Kingdoms of Central America 9.00
Inspector Montalbano 10.50 Tales from
the Royal Wardrobe with Lucy Worsley
11.50 Top of the Pops: 1980 12.35 Kate
Bush at the BBC 1.35 The Rolling Stones
at the BBC 2.20 Secret Knowledge:
Hogarth – Ohe Man and His Pug 2.50 Lost
Kingdoms of Central America 3.50 Close

11.10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway 12.35 Catchphrase 1.20 The Hot Desk: Ella Henderson 1.30 Film: Twins (1988) 3.40 Mr Bean 4.45 Film: Twins (1988) 3.40 Mr Bean 4.45 Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde (2003) 6.50 Film: Wild Wild West (1999 9.00 Film: Rush Hour 2 (2001) 10.50 Celebrity Juice 11.35 lbiza Weekender 12.35 Crazy Beaches 1.00 Hell's Kitchen 1.50 Fake Reaction 2.25 Life's Funniest Moments 2.45 Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen

11.45 Bertie and Elizabeth 1.50 A Touch of Frost 3.55 Wycliffe 5.00 Agatha Christie's Marple 7.00 Doc Martin 8.00 Foyle's War 10.00 Inspector Morse 12.15 A Touch of Frost 2.15 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

1744

12.45 Live Snooker: World Grand Prix.
Coverage of the opening semi-final from
Llandudno. 5.15 Storage Wars 6.45 Live
Snooker: World Grand Prix. 11.15 Cricket
World Cup Highlights 12.15 Film: 8 Mile
(2002) 2.25 Hogan's Heroes 3.00 Teleshopping

11.35 Marry Me 12.00 New Girl 1.00

11.35 Marry Me 12.00 New Girl 1.00 (Helisa & Joey 4.00 Baby Daddy 5.00 Troy 5.50 Rude(sh) Tube Short 5.00 Troy 5.50 Rude(sh) Tube Short 5.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Daredevil (2003) 11.05 The Big Bang Theory 11.35 Rude Tube: Mashed in Miked 12.35 Troy 1.40 2 Broke Girls 2.10 How I Met Your Mother 3.00 Don't Trust the B\*\*\* in Apartment 23 Don't Trust the B\*\*\*\* in Apartment 23 3.45 One Tree Hill 4.30 Make It or Break It

Film4
11.00 10 Little Indians (1965) 1.00 The Phantom (1996) 3.00 Five Children and It (2004) 4.50 The China Syndrome (1979) 7.15 Airplanel (1980) 9.00 The Mechanic (2011) 10.55 Sinister (2012) 1.00 The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) 3.10



## 8 March 19, Thursday, Chronicle The

## **CHOICE**



**Louis Theroux** 

#### Louis Theroux: By Reason of Insanity (BBC2, 9pm)

The journalist immerses himself in the world of Ohio's maximum security state psychiatric hospitals. meeting patients who have committed crimes some horrifically violent while suffering from severe mental illnesses. In the first of a two-part programme. Louis spends time with patients who are attempting to come to terms with what they have done and talks to the clinicians entrusted with delivering the treatment it is hoped will one day lead to their reintegration back into society

#### BBC<sub>1</sub>

6.00 Breakfast. 7.30 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics. 12.15 MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Politics. 12.15 MUDIZ EXTR. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.15 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 3.15 The Truth About Sugar. (R) 4.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.45 Lifeline. 4.55 Songs of Praise. 5.30 BBC News. 5.50 Regional

6.00 The Big Painting Challenge. Una The Big Painting Challenge. Una Stubbs and Richard Bacon present the art competition from Liverpool, and for the amateurs' first challenge they are asked to paint their personal interpretation of the city in watercolours. With just a week until the final, two artists make the bold decision to change their styles in a bid to impress the judges. For the quick draw, the hopefuls capture the Royal Liver Building dock tower, followed by the final challenge – a busy painting of the city's skyline from across the River Mersey.

from across the River Mersey.

Countryfile. Adam Henson visits
the Isle of Man, finding out about
19th-century naturalist Edward
Forbes and local farming. Plus,
archive items about different
creatures spotted over the years.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The team visits Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, where items include a 1970s barber's chair, a 12th-century Hindu sculpture and collectibles indirectly related to the Tabaic.

9.00 Poldark. Ross puts on a brave face when Elizabeth gives birth and is angered by gossip about him and Demelza.

10.00 BBC News. 10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman introduces highlights of the latest Premier League matches, featuring Liverpool v Manchester United, Hull City v Chelsea and Queens Park Rangers

v Everton.

11.40 The Football League Show.
Bristol City v Walsall. Manish
Bhasin presents highlights of the
Johnstone's Paint Trophy final at
Wembley Stadium, as the League
One clubs battled it out for

12.25 The Apprentice USA. 1.45 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.50 BBC

#### BBC<sub>2</sub>

6.00 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) 5.30 Great British Garden Revival. (R) 7.30 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.00 Countrylie. (R) 9.00 The Football League Show. (R) 10.20 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.50 A Taste of Britain. 12.20 Batter in Time for Dinner. (R) 1.20 Film Day of the Evil Gun. (1968) Western, Starring Glenn Ford. 2.50 Some Mothers Do Ave Em. (R) 3.30 Three Up, Two Down. (R) 4.00 Hide-Hil (R) 4.35 The Hairy Bivers and Lorraine Pascale. Cooking the Nation's Favourite Food. (R) 5.35 Operation Stonehenge: What Lies Beneath. (R) 6.35 Pomplidou. The thoughts of the penniless aristocraft turn to love on Valentine's Day and a chance meeting with a woman from a dating agency means his wishes

dating agency means his wishes might just come true.

7.00 Six Nations Greatest Moments. Six Nations Greatest Moments.
Gabby Logan presents a
celebration of some of the most
memorable moments from the
rugby union competition,
featuring archive action and
testimonies from leading players
of the past. With contributions
from Jonny Wilkinson, Brian
O'Driscoll, Gavin and Scott
Hastings, Thomas Castaignede,
Serge Betsen, Gareth Edwards,
and Martin Johnson.
Caribbean with Simon Reeve.

and Martin Jonnson.

8.00 Caribbean with Simon Reeve.
New series. The adventurer travels around the Islands and mainland coast of the Caribbean Sea, beginning by visiting the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Puerto Rico.

9.00 Louis Theroux: By Reason of Insanity. Part one of two. The journalist visits Ohio's maximum security state psychiatric hospitals, meeting patients who have committed crimes while suffering from severe mental illnesses.

illnesses.

10.00 Bluestone 42. Nick is called in to rescue a squaddie who has trapped his helmet in an IED tripwire – but things soon take a worrying turn. Elsewhere, Simon makes a life-changing discovery.

10.30 Film: Red Talls. (2012) Premiere
Black US fighter pilots battle both
the German air force and racism it
their own ranks. Second World
War drama, starring Terrence
Howard and Guba Gooding Jr.

**12.25 Film:** Donkeys. (2010) **1.40** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.40** Holby City.

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. 6.10
Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.20 Bottom
Knocker Street. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R)
7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Sooty (R) 7.20
Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.30
Scrambled: Scrambled: Scrambled: Scrambled: Scrambled: Scrambled: Scrambled: Scrambled: Horrid
Henry. 8.50 Scrambled: Hulk and the
Agents of Smash. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle
Show. (R) 10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.25 T She Wrote. (H) 1.49 Film. Fletch Live (1989) Comedy sequel, starring Chevy Chase. 3.30 River Monsters. (R) 4.00 Film: Twister. (1996) Action thriller, wi Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton.

6.05 Regional Programme; Weather 6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.
6.30 The Chase: Celebrity Special.
Coronation Street actress Samia
Ghadie (Maria Connor), The Last
Leg's Alex Brooker, presenter
Annabel Giles and comedian
Julian Clary compete to win
thousands of pounds for charity
by taking on one of the show's
resident trivia experts in a test of
their general knowledge. However,
they must work as a team to build
their prize pot and stay one step
ahead of the Chaser. Bradley
Walsh hosts. (R)
7.30 Off Their Rockers. Royston

7.30 Off Their Rockers. Royston invents the ultimate mobile phone case, Paul tests out the world's most powerful leaf blower, and Seb steals flowers from a funeral.

Seb steals flowers from a funeral.

8.00 All Star Family Forfunes.
Hollyoaks actor Kieron Richardson (Ste Hay) and This Morning presenter Ruth Langsford team up with their families in an attempt to win thousands for charity.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. Nancy has difficulty keeping her engagement to Harry a secret from Gus, and a meddling Princess Marie makes things even trickier. Miss Mardle and Mr Grove come to blows again. come to blows again.

10.00 ITV News; Weather. 10.010 News, weather.

10.15 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive. The four remaining celebrities forage for food in the forest, endure another stormy night and face their most extreme challenge yet crossing a 200ft ravine one by one on a rope. (R)

11.20 LV= Cup Rugby Union. 12.15 The Store. 2.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.15 ITV Nightscreen.

#### CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. 6.45 How I Met Your Mother. 7.10 How I Met Your Mother. 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Haymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Srasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) 1.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.00 The Simpsons. (R) 2.30 The Simpsons. (R) 2.30 The Simpsons. (R) 2.30 The Simpsons. (2010)

3.00 Film: The Spy Next Door. (2010)
Comedy, starring Jackie Chan. 4.50
Channel 4 News. 5.10 Richard III: The
Return of the King.
8.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy
West and Prunella Scales journey
along the "London Ring", as it's
known to narrowboat lovers, in a known to narrowboat lovers, in a voyage of discovery through their home city. Starting in Brentford, they follow the Union Canal, and then the Regent's Canal until it meets the Tiames at Limehouse. Along the way, they meet up with fellow actors Andrew Sachs and lan McKellen, and visit the cemetery at Kensal Green, where their old friend, playwright Harold Pinter, is buried.

their old friend, playwright Harold Pinter, is buried.

9.00 Indian Summers. A mountaineer saves Alice, Madeleine and Ronnie from a perilous situation and inveigles his way into Alice's affections, but she's unaware he has an ulterior motive. And when he later reveals he knows the truth about her past he leaves her in no doubt as to what exactly his silence will cost. Darius puts pressure on Roshana to accept Sita into the Dalal family fold, while Ramu is furious when he discovers Jaya has stolen his late wife's wedding dress. Dougle and Sarah work to rebuild their troubled marriage.

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Alerme. (R)

Aherne. (R)

Aherne. (R)

11.00 Film: The Twilight Saga:
Breaking Dawn – Part 1. (2011)
Vampire Edward and human Bella
get married, but her subsequent
pregnancy has dangerous
implications. Romantic fantasy sequel, with Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson.

1.15 Film: Bruno. (2009) Spoof documentary, starring Sacha Baron Cohen. 2.35 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.50 River Cottage Veg Heroes. (R) 5.20 Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) 5.35 The Common Denominator. (R)

#### **CHANNEL 5**

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 6.20 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.35 Pip Ahoy! (R) 6.45 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.55 Bert and The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.55 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 7.00 Chloe's Closet. (R) 7.15 Olly the Little White Van. 7.20 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.30 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.45 Little Princess. (R) 8.00 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 8.10 Zack and Quack. 8.25 Ben and Libert Little Control. (R) 8.10 Sec. Market Control. (R) 8.10 Sec. Market (R) 8.10 Zack and Quack. 8.25 Ben and Libert Little Control. (R) 8.10 Sec. Market (R) 8.10 Zack and Quack. 8.25 Ben and (R) 8.10 Zack and (R) 8.25 Ben And (R) 8.10 Zack and (R)

Princess. (R) 8.00 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 8.10 Zack and Ouack 8.25 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.45 Jelly Jamm. (R) 9.00 Lazy Town 9.30 Dora and Friends. 10.03 The Dog Rescuers. (R) 11.00 The Hotel Inspector. (R) 12.00 The Hotel Inspector. (R) 12.56 Film: The Borrowers. (1997) Children's fantasy drama, starring John Fravolta. 3.20 Film: The Borrowers. (1997) Children's fantasy starring John Goodman. 5.00 Film: A Cinderella Story. (2004) Romantic comedy, starring John Goodman. 5.00 Film: Comedy, starring Hilary Duff and Chad Michael Murray.
6.50 5 News Weekend.
6.55 Film: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider—The Craule of Life. (2003) The daredevil heroine returns on a new quest, this time to search the world for the legendary Pandora's Box. However, a devious scientist is determined to get his hands on it first and realise his cunning scheme to harmess the box's power as a deadly weapon. Action adventure sequel, starring Angelina Jolie, Gerard Butler, Ciaran Hinds, Chris Barrie and Dilimon Hounsou. Edited for Ciaran Hinds, Chris Barrie and Djimon Hounsou. Edited for anguage and violence

9.00 Film: Alex Cross. (2012) Film: Alex Cross. (2012)
Premiera. A homicide cop pursues an ex-military assassin who has sadistically tortured and murdered a wealthy executive, leaving a surreal clue to the next victim. However, as the detective tries to bring the killing spree to an end, he finds his own family is also in the firing line. Crime thriller, starring Tyler Perry, Matthew Fox and Jean Reno.

11.05 Film: Scream 4. (2011) Three-time massacre survivor Sidney Prescott faces a new masked killer marking the 15th anniversary of the original murders. Horror sequel, starring Neve Campbell and Emma Roberts.

and Emma Hoderts.

1.10 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. 3.10 The Restaurant Inspector. An Afro-Caribbean restaurant in Sheffield. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.15 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

#### **DIGITAL**

BBC Three
7.00 The Voice UK 8.55 The Voice UK
Results 9.30 Russell Howard's Good News
10.00 I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse
11.00 Family Guy 11.45 Bluestone 42
12.15 American Dad! 12.35 I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse 1.35 Russell Howard's Good News 2.05 Bluestone 42 2.35 Jenny Bede: AAA 2.55 Muslim Miss World

7.00 The Great War 8.20 Pop Go the Sixties 7.00 The Great War 8.20 Pop Go the Sixtle 8.30 Secret Knowledge: Stradivarius and Me 9.00 Lost Cities of the Ancients 10.00 Film: Sleep Tight (2011) 11.35 Kenny Rogers: Cards on the Table 12.35 Top of the Pops: The Story of 1980 1.35 Kings of Soul 2.35 Lost Cities of the Ancients

ITV2
12.10 Take Me Out 1.20 Totally Bonkers
Guinness World Records 1.58 Scorpion
2.45 Catchphrase Celebrity Special 3.40
Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) 5.25 Ant &
Decs Saturday Might Takeavay 6.50 Film:
She's the Man (2006) 9.00 Ibiza
Weekender 10.00 Film: The Girl with the
Dragon Tattoo (2011) 1.10 Mom 2.00
Life's Eruniest Moments 2.25 Teleshopping
5.55 ITV2 Nightscreen

11.35 A Touch of Frost 1.40 Wycliffe 2.45
A Touch of Frost 4.45 Agatha Christie's
Marple 6.50 Inspector Morse 9.00 Sunday
Night at the Palladium 10.00 Birds of a
Feather 10.30 City Lights 11.35 Film:
Steptoe and Son (1972) 1.30 Perspectives:
Lenny Henry – Finding Shakespare 2.20
Judge Judy 2.40 Wycliffe 3.40 Emmerdale

17V4

11.45 Storage Wars 12.45 Live Snooker:
World Grand Prix. Coverage of the opening
session of the final from Llanduno. 5.15
Storage Wars 5.40 River Monsters 6.45
Live Snooker, World Grand Prix 11.15
Film: Fearless (2006) 1.25 Minder 2.30
Nitro Circus 2.55 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00
Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Revenge 1.30 The 100 2.30 Rude(ish)
Tube 2.55 How I Met Your Mother 3.55
Brooklyn Nine-Nine 4.30 The Big Bang
Theory 7.20 Flim: Gulliver's Travles (2010)
9.00 Troy 10.00 Rude Tube: Mashed 'n'
Mixed 11.05 The Big Bang Theory 11.35
Tattoos After Dark 12.35 Taking New York
1.40 Rules of Engagement 2.30 The New
Normal 3.20 Hollyoaks

Time 11. 00 The Producers (1968) 1.00 Taxi (2004) 3.00 The Last Mimzy (2007) 4.50 Edward Scissorhands (1990) 6.55 America's Sweethearts (2001) 9.00 Hitman (2007) 10.50 Notorious (2009) 1.15 The Ballad of Jack and Rose (2005) 3.35 Close

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## **FILM CHOICES**

Tears of the Sun, Channel 5, 10.55pm

A veteran lieutenant leads an elite Navy Seal team on n undercover mission to evacuate a doctor from crisistorn Nigeria. However, the brutality of the conflict prompts the rescuers to disobey orders and intervene to save the lives of helpless refugees. Action drama, starring Bruce Willis, Monica Bellucci, Cole Hauser and

The Vow, Channel 5, 11pm
A newlywed couple are involved in a car accident, and the wife wakes up with no memory of her husband. While he tries to get her to fall in love with him all over again, she is reunited with her estranged parents, who never approved of the marriage and see her condition as a chance to make a fresh start. Romantic drama, with Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum, Jessica Lange



#### WEDNESDAY

The Devil's Double, BBC1, 11.15pm

An Iraqi soldier is forced to become a double for Saddam Hussein's sadistic son Uday to distract assassins. His new role plunges him into a world of depravity, as he becomes a first-hand witness to the acts of murder and violence Uday routinely indulges in. Drama, starring Dominic Cooper, Ludivine Sagnier and Philip Quast. (2011)

#### THURSDAY

Montana Sky, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Three women with the same father but different mothers meet for the first time after their estranged father dies. They discover he has left them his ranch in his will - on the condition that they run the estate together for at least a year. Unfortunately, they soon learn the old man had enemies determined to make sure they fail. Drama, starring Ashley Williams and Laura Mennell. (2007)

#### FRIDAY

Glory, BBC2, 11.35pm

Fact-based historical drama chronicling the story of the first all-black regiment to fight in the American Civil War, and the inexperienced officer given the job of training the men and leading them into battle. Starring Matthe Broderick, Cary Elwes, Morgan Freeman and Denzel Washington, who received an Oscar for his performance. (1989)

## **PICK OF THE WEEK Clegg makes a decision** in the Nick of time

umours, back-stabbing, double-dealings and u-turns – such things are about to dominate the headlines as a general election is looming large on the horizon.

icoming large on the norizon. While most of the media world seems to have got caught up in the will-he-worl-he tales involving David Cameron and the televised leadership debate he seems to be reluctant to participate in, Channel 4 has quietly been putting together Coalition, a drama about, you guessed it, the coalition.

coalition.

The station is no stranger to political dramas, having already backed such acclaimed shows as Mo, Complicit and The Deal. Sadly, it was also behind UMP: The First 100 Days, the fictionalised documentary which received a bashing from critics and audiences alike when it was broadcast last month.

However, Coalition promises to be rather more impressive.

It's been written by James Graham, who is sticking with politics for his next project - the stage play The Vote, which will form part of the Donmar Warehouse's spring season: More4 will also broadcast the production live on the night of the election itself.

election itself.

Coalition focuses on the rise of Nick
Clegg. In 2010, he was the leader of
the Liberal Democrats, and barely
anybody gave him a second thought –
he certainly wasn't regarded as a
possibly major player.

possibly frajor payer.

However, taking part in the UK's first-ever televised leaders' debate changed all that. Suddenly, thanks to an impassioned speech, he became an unlikely hero, someone who gave rivals David Cameron and Gordon Brown a wake-up call – or at least a kick up the backside.

"I believe the way things are is not the way things have to be," he famously stated. "We have a chance to do things differently for once."

Then, after the election, he was given the opportunity to form a coalition – and, as this drama reveals, Clegg's moves at that time became one of the most influential and significant political decision of recent

"In May 2010, British politics was faced with a dilemma it hadn't had to

face in peacetime for over 75 years," says Graham. "The public were asked who should govern, and they came back with the answer – 'we don't know. Those historic, dramatic few days put personalities at the heart of politics – and the choices made, I believe, changed the face of British politics forever.

"What we try to capture in this drama is the tension, the high stakes, and the frequent farcical and absurd nature of what happens when a power is wrangled, negotiated and fought over like children trading cards in the playground."

Clegg is played here by Bertie Carvel, who is in the midst of a big year career-wise – as well as Coalition, he is set to appear in the BBC's eagerly awaited adaptation of Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell.

lan Grieve plays outgoing Prime Minister Gordon Brown, a role he's accustomed to after starring on stage in The Confessions of Gordon Brown while Mark Dexter plays David

Look out too for Mark Gatiss, who's on fine form as Peter Mandelson.



Bertie Carvel stars as Nick Clegg in Coalition, Thursday, Channel 4, 9pm

## **BEST OF THE REST**

#### MONDAY

Trevor McDonald Meets the Mafia

The Godfather, GoodFellas, The Sopranos – the shadowy world of the US Mafia has inspired some incredible dramas. But how realistic is their depiction of a life of organised crime? We're about to get an insight, as in this two-part documentary, Trevor McDonald gains unprecedented access to some of the people who have experienced the money, the glamour and the violence first hand. The veteran broadcaster starts his journey in Queens, New York, where he meets John Alite, aka The Sheriff, who explains how he began his ascent up ne ranks following the orders for the infamous John Gotti Snr during the 1980s and 1990s, But while would-be mobsters may have to prove their loyalty, the consequences for betraving their fellow criminals can be severe...

#### **TUESDAY** Ordinary Lies

BBC1, 9pm

Fun-loving receptionist Tracy longs to escape her mundane life. It seems she has found the answer when she starts dating local DJ Jimmy, who offers to whisk her and her workmate Viv off on an all-expenses-paid trip to the Caribbean. A free exotic break seems too good to be true - and sure

enough, it soon becomes clear there is more to the holiday than meets the eye. Meanwhile, Beth's suspicions grow when she discovers the identity of her husband's late-night caller. Michelle Keegan (Coronation Street) stars

#### WEDNESDAY 24 Hours in A&E

Channel 4, 9pm Hospital dramas are hardly in short supply these days, but it turns out we love a hospitalbased documentary just as much as much as the fictional stuff, as this award-winning series continues. The episode looks at families whose strong bonds have seen them through the worst that life can throw at them. Les lost control of his Land Rover, and has been admitted to St George's with lacerations on his head. He'll need emergency surgery, and the team test for underlying head and neck injuries, while his dad Michael rushes to his side Meanwhile Cambelle, a 21-year-old plumber, has an infected cyst, and 67-year-old retired doctor Patrick has been involved in horse-riding accident, in which he was dragged 130ft and not found for more than two hours.

## THURSDAY

Ordinary Lies, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

Richard III: The King Laid to Rest Channel 4, 8pm

This final programme in Channel 4's coverage of the reburial of Richard III provides highlights of the service from earlier today at Leicester Cathedral, alongside a live broadcast of a last moment of intimate ceremonial, in

which the king's descendants, and those who led the campaign to find his remains, gather to bid him a final farewell. The Bosworth beacon, lit when Richard's remains arrived back at the site of his death on Sunday morning, will be extinguished as the tombstone is revealed for

> The Truth About Calories BBC1, 9pm In the second

the first time

documentary on health issues, Chris van Tulleken runs a series

to get to the

bottom of calories. He tests the real calorie content of randomly selected supermarket foods - finding that the labels aren't always accurate and examines the best way to burn them off. For this he gets three families to engage in different activities after a big fry-up – from a tough workout at the gym to relaxing on the sofa. He also reveals a few kitchen secrets, managing to strip 360 calories out of steak

#### FRIDAY Marvel's Agents of SHIELD Channel 4, 8pm

With Avengers: Age of Ultron about to dominate cinemas, and Daredevil and Agent Carter focusing on the small screen, Marvel's quest for media domination shows little sign of abating. And with this returning series offering plenty of clues for fans of the comic book universe, fan boys and girls alike will be thrilled as Agent Coulson and his eclectic band of crimefighters return after their mid-season break. As alarming revelations threaten to destroy them, Coulson and the agents are faced with the consequences of their war with Hydra. Their foe makes a risky move that could involve a traitor in SHIELD's midst. Series regulars Clark Gregg, Ming-Na Wen, Chloe Bennet and Iain De Caestecker head the cast.



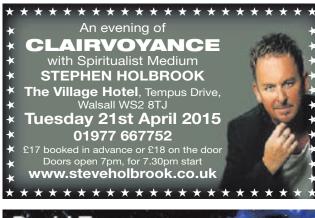


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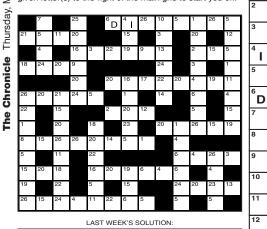
## 30 BRAIN GYM

## Codeword

201

6

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



J B Q I R K N F G S U P E

## Cryptic Clues:

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both

**Double Crossword** 

## Across

- 7. The way the tour is diverted to the East
- 8. Becomes snarled back-street (7)
- 9. An insult to a seaside promenade, we hear (7)
- 10. The French travel south to Nigerian port (5)
- 12. You could find these right in the main shopping centre (4.6)
- 15. Right-handed key (6,4) 18. This coin was a
- sovereign (5) 19 & 13Dn. This will deceive the pupils (7.8)
- different name for a flower (7)
- 22. Get to the bottom pipe-line (5)

#### Down

- 1. Normal, neat decorative arrangement (10)
- 2. They went round the necks of thugs, we hear (5)
- 3. Famous fiddler in Stainer oratorio (4)
- 4. What the needle produces is an acute pain (6)
  Take out of gear (8)
- 6. Did some signalling, but became weary (7)
- 11 Complete black suit needed by one who goes round the course (3,2,5)
- 13. See 19 Across
- 14. Declines to put rubbish on the top of the scrap-heap (7)

  16. Mob round the East
- whooped in triumph 17. Show disdain for
- one who reconnoitres (5)
- 20. Betty Perkins to do some secretarial work inside (4)

### **Quick Clues:**

#### Across

- 8. Flood (7)
- 9. A month (7)
- 10. Sugary (5)
- **12.** Affirm (10)
- **15.** Emphasise (10)
- 18. Lock (5)
- 19. Relations (7)
- 21. Dirty (7)
- 22. Goodbye (5)

## Down

- 1. Book-keeper (10)

- 13. Ominous (8)
- 14. Shriek (7)
- 16. Harsh (6) 17. Coach (5)

- 2. Join (5)
- 3. Door handle (4)
- 4. Famish (6)
- 5. Expectation (8)
- 6. Indefinite (7)
- 11. Huge (10)

- 20. Tidy (4)

#### 8 1 6 8 5 9



Fill in the grid below so that every column every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits

Sudoku

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Restraint; 8 Air; 9 Incanta-tion; 11 Artiste; 12 Posts; 13 Canvas; 15 Prefer; 17 Avast; 18 Celslus; 20 Tuiltion tees; 22 Ewe; 25 Elephants. Down: 2 Eon; 3 Rings; 4 Images; 5 Tripper, 6 Sands of time; 7 Treasures; 10 Croe-toneaster; 11 Archangel; 14 Astride; 16 Scribe; 19 Lunch; 21 Eat. QUICK - Across: 1 Prostrate; 19 Lunch; 21 Eat. QUICK - Across: 1 Prostrate; 18 Let; 9 Storm-signal; 11 Builder; 12 Baste; 13 Idiocy; 15 Repose; 17 Knave; 18 Patriot; 20 Intercepted; 22 Set; 23 Respected. Down: 2 Rat; 3 Timid; 4 Aviary; 5 Ennoble; 6 Illusionist; 7 Statement; 10 Originality; 11 Briskness; 14 Crea-tor; 16 Sports; 19 Theme; 21 Ere. LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Restraint; 8 Air; 9 Incar

#### Quiz

- Who is credited with discovering penicillin in 1928?
- In which country are the Queen's bodyguards the Royal Company of
- What was IRA man Dominic McGlinchey's nickname?
- Who wrote Strangers on a Train?
  Which bird has honey and rough-legged
- 6. Which country was formerly known as the Gold Coast?
- Which skier is known as La Bomba?
- Who wrote Our Man in Havana?
- Which river divides Kentish Men from Men of Kent?
- 10. Which composer's Adagietto from his 5th Symphony was used in the film Death In Venice?

#### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Henry VIII; 2 James Herriot; 3

Essex; 4 Rene Descartes; 5 Grandsons; 6

Wild pansy; 7 Heroin; 8 Daniel Radcliffe; 9

Robinson Crusoe; 10 Inter Milan.

Niner: UNLOCATED

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine lette

> gives a nocturnal mammal, gives a kind of weasel, 31249 gives insects.



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Deceptively spacious, the home in Lodge oad, is for sale through Edwards Moore at £349,950.

at £349,950.

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ting room/bedroom four with a bay window, breakfast kitchen, a utility with a sink, a re-fitted shower room, a garage, landing a study area, en suite shower room, four bedrooms, and a re-fitted bathroom.

It has a large paved driveway and small lawned area, a good sized rear garden with patio and large lawn and sheds. Call 0192 615222 or visit www.edwardsmoore.co.uk

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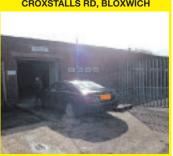
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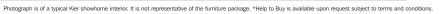














## Estate House, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1DA

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at 6.00pm Precisely

Banks's Stadium, Walsall Football Club, Bescot Crescent, Walsall, WS1 4SA



•Guide Price £130,000 PLUS

## **Beaton Close** Willenhall



end of terrace property has double glazing and gas central heating (no located close to all amenities, the property comprises:-Reception Hall Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen Area, Conservatory Three Bedrooms and

•Guide Price £55,000 - £65,000

## **Butts Road**



•Guide Price £30,000 PLUS

## Floyds Lane Walsall





A good sized, traditional semi detached house in this popular and convenient location in need of considerable improvement, but offering an excellent opportunity to the investment purchaser. Having uPVC double glazing and gas central heating the property includes: Porch Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Sun Room/Utility, three Bedrooms

•Guide Price £90,000 PLUS

#### Clarkes Lane Willenhall



tion having been extended, but requiring certain mod and as such requires improvement but could be an ideal investmen or family home. Having gas central heating and uPVC double glazing

Woodend

## Thetford Road **Great Barr**



and transport links close by this semi detached propert boasts gas central heating and double glazing but is in need of a certain isation and upgrading. With a double garage at the ear the property comprises:- Reception Hall, Lounge/Dining Room ing Room and Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms and Bath

●Guide Price £95,000 PLUS

## Perseverance House, Ida Road



•Guide Price £245,000 PLUS

## High View, Highgate Road Walsall



•Guide Price £47,500 PLUS

## Beacon Street Walsall



ought after Chuckery area of Walsall with all amenities close at hand Offering an ideal investment opportunity currently let on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy for 6 months from 3/10/14 at £500 per calendar month. With gas fired central heating and double glazing the property omprises: Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Rear Lobby, Two Bed

●Guide Price £60,000 PLUS

the property includes: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen and 3 Bed



## The Crescent Walsall



## Walsall





## •Guide Price £85,000 PLUS



to motorway networks. Offering excellent scope for improvement the property comprises: Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen

•Guide Price £100,000-£110,000



Delightfully located in a popular and sought after residential area , this traditionally styled semi de well planned spacious accommodation which is in need of some nodernisation and improvement. The gas centrally heated extended accommodation has a cottage feel about it and comprises of the ing:- Enclosed Porch, Guest W.C., Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining, , Breakfast Kitchen, Garage. Four Bedrooms and Bathroom.

•Guide Price £180,000 PLUS

#### Halesowen Street **Rowley Regis**



Offering an ideal investment opportunity with the additional possibility

•Guide Price £220,000 PLUS

#### The Range Streetly



•Guide Price £100,000 PLUS

## Borneo Street Walsall



Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Lobby and Access to W.C, Three

•Guide Price £60,000 PLUS

## Rose Cottage,Hallchurch Road Brierley Hill





•Guide Price £150,000 PLUS

## Weston Street Walsall



ial area and offers scope for further improvement and suitable for a first time buyer or investor. With all amenities close

•Guide Price £55,000 PLUS

## The Crescent Walsall



planned accommodation comprises:- Reception Hall, Lounge, Living Room, W.C., Kitchen area, Breakfast Area, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom

●Guide Price £110.000 PLUS

## Kinnerley Street Walsall



●Guide Price £40,000 PLUS

## Kinnerley Street Walsall



●Guide Price £40,000 PLUS

, Shower Room, Outbuildings, Yard and Rear Garder

 Guides are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve (a figure below which the Auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide







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# S PRESTIGE ESTAT 46 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall, WV12 4JQ





WALKERS FOLD, WILLENHALL Two Bed Mid Town

House Comprising Of Entrance Hall. Kitchen, Lounge/ Shower Room Outside Are Two Allocated Parking Spaces & Rear

OIEO £99.995



Two Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch & Hall. Lounge Fitted

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WALSALL ROAD, WILLENHALL

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OIEO £130,000



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ROCKET POOL



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STOKES AVENUE, WILLENHALL

Semi Detached. Comprises Of Porch, Entrance Hall, Through Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen & Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H, Paved Fore Garden And Extensive Gardens To Rear.



WILLENHALL Well Pr

Three Bed Semi Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room, Family Bathroom, D/G & G/C/H. Extensive Off Road Parking & An Enclosed Re Garden. Great FTB!

WALKERS FOLD,



PARK ROAD, DARLASTON

Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Hall, Inner Hallway, Lounge, Separate Sitting/Dining Room Fitted Kitchen, Sun Bathroom, UPVC D/G And G/C/H Garage & Off Road Parking, Enclosed Garden To The Rear



Two Bed Mid Terraced. Comprises
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Floor Canalside Apartme ses Of Open Plan Kitchen



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LODGE STREET, WILLENHALL omprises Of Entrance Hall. Spacious Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen & Family Bathroom D/G & G/C/H. Driveway & Garage



LISTER STREET, WILLENHALL

ALBION ROAD, WILLENHALL Three Bed Mid Terrace, Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Ground Floor Bathroom

oor W.C Room. D/G. G/C/H. Re



ff Road Par

III & INC.

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wnhouse. Comprises Entrance Townhouse. Comprises Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Conservatory. Bathroom, D/G, G/ CH, Parking To The Fore, Enclosed Garden To The Rear £119,950





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orises Of Entrance Hall.

oom. D/G, G/C/H. Drivew ng & A Garage To The For



STOURMORE CLOSE, W'HALL Three Bed Semi Detached WELLAND GROVE, W'HALL hree Bedroom Detached

Comprises Of Entrance Hall



BASALT CLOSE, WALSALL Modern Three Bed End Town House. Comprises Of Kitchen, ounge/Diner, En-Suite To Man led & Bathroom, Garage, Garden to The Front With Off Road Parking

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LUCKNOW ROAD, W'HALL xtended Four Bed Semi.

om & En-Suite. D/G, G/C/H.
ad Parking To The Fore & An
ed Garden To The Rear.
£155,000

Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Fami

MILL LANE, WILLENHALL

ed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance

ner, Kitchen, Bathroom, D/G, /C/H. Integral Garage, Driveway 8

An Enclosed Rear Garde £130,000

HUNTS LANE, WILLENHALL Semi Detached. Comprises Of pliner, Conservatory, Ground Floor dedroom, Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H, off Road Parking. Generous Plot.



BUSH STREET, DARLASTON



Comprising Of Entrance Porch & Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitche Conservatory, En-Suite To Master



RAGSTONE CLOSE, WALSALL Well Presented Modern Four Bed Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen/Diner, W.C, En-Suite. DG, G/C/H, Integral Garage, Enclosed



BLOXWICH RD NTH, W'HALL with, W'HAL hetached Three Bed Having ntrance Porch, Hall, Lounge With glenook Fireplace, Separate titing Room, Conservator tohen Conservator

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  Through Lounge / Dining Room
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- Two Bed First Floor Apartment
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- UPVC DG, Economy 7



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- Lounge & Kitchen
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- Communal Gardens



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Second Floor Flat Part Furnished

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- Broad Lane, Wolve

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  Utility Room
  Refitted Kitchen



- Guest Cloakro
   Lounge
   Dining Room
   Conseravtory
   Kitchen Diner
   Utility Room



- Leigh Road, Walsall

  Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
  Two Reception Rooms
  Newly Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
  Study
  Three Double Bedrooms
  Family Bathroom with Walk-In Shower



- Three bedroom Town
  Gas Central Heating
  Double Glazing
  Lounge
  Kitchen/Diner
  family Bathroom



- Quantock Close, Walsall

  Impressive Four Bedroom Detached
  Property
  Two reception rooms
  Conservatory
  Kitchen
  Utility Room



- EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM SEMI
- DETACHED

   AMPLE OFF ROAD PARKING

   SIDE TANDEM GARAGE

   TWO RECEPTION ROOMS

   EXTENDED REFITTED KITCHEN



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
  Two Reception Rooms
  Kitchen
  Utility
  Family Bathroom
  Large Rear Garden



- Four Bedroom Modern Link Detached

- Lounge
  Fitted Kitchen
  Conservatory
  Guest WC
  2nd Floor Master Bedroom & En-Suite



- Entrance Hall
   Lounge
   Kitchen
   Family Bathroom
   Gas Central Heating
   Double Glazing



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
  In Need of Modernisation
  Two Reception Rooms
  Kitchen
  Side Passageway
  Downstairs W.C.



- Three bedroom Semi Detached
- Lounge
   Kitchen/Diner
   Conservatory
   Shower Room
   Gas Central Heating





The Pines, Walsall

- Lounge/Dining Room
   Kitchen
   Family Bathroom
   Conservatory
   Garage/Games Room



- Clarkes Lane, Willenhall



- Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detacl
   Two Reception Rooms
   Fitted Kitchen
   Utility/Guest W.C.
   Conservatory
   Three Bedrooms



- Lane Avenue, Walsall
- Eane Avenue, W

  Three Bed Semi-Detached
  Extended
  Extended
  Fitted Kitchen
  Master Bedroom/Ensuite
  Bathroom with Shower
  Through Lounge/Diner



- Daw End Lane, Walsall
- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
  Two Reception Rooms
  Extended Breakfast Kitchen
  Sun Room
  Two Double Bedrooms
  Family Bathroom



- Central Drive, Walsall

Kitchen
 Family Bathroom with Shower
 Front, Rear & Side Gardens
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Lounge
 Fitted Kitchen
 Bathroom
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 Gas Central Hear



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  Integral Graze





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  Conservatory

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181

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Dining room

Bathroom

Guest WC

Consevatory

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  Bathroom



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  Inner Lobby with Utility
  Ground Floor Bathroom
  Two Double Bedrooms

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- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
  Two Reception Rooms
  Kitchen
  Ground Floor Bathroom
  Three Double Bedrooms
  Rear Garden





Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
Two Reception Rooms
Recently Fitted Kitchen
Rear Lobby with Utility
Guest W.C.
Two Double Bedrooms



Cartbridge Walk, Walsall

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# The Chronicle Thursday, March 19, 2015

# K.Stuart Swash

## AUCTION - 24th MARCH 2015



#### 14 LONGDON AVENUE, GOLDTHORN PARK, WOLVERHAMPTON

Well presented three bedroomed Semi., through lounge, Conservatory, kitchen, utility, bathroom, Gas CH., garage, attractive rear garden. EPC: D66

Guide: £140,000 / £145,000

#### **VIEWING:**

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 20th & 21st MARCH @ 10.00 a.m.



#### **84 BELMONT ROAD** PENN, WOLVERHAMPTON

Detached House in popular district, hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, pantry, garden lounge, wc., three bedrooms, bathroom, Gas CH., large extended garage, garden with double gates on rear boundary. EPC: E.50

> Guide: £120,000 / £125,000 **VIEWING:**

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 20th & 21st MARCH @ 11.00 a.m.



#### 19 MILL LANE, TETTENHALL WOOD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Excellent location with open land to rear Spacious Semi, lounge, dining area, kitchen, pantry, three bedrooms, bathroom, Gas CH., garage & off-road parking, enclosed rear garden. EPC:

> Guide: £150,000 / £155,000 **VIEWING:**

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 20th & 21st MARCH @ 12.00 noon



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#### **193 DIXON STREET** WOLVERHAMPTON

#### Investment

Mid Terraced, hall, lounge. kitchen, rear hall, wc., three bedrooms, bathroom, Gas CH, rear garden, off-road parking EPC: C.74

Guide: £65,000 / £70,000

**VIEWING:** 

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 20th & 21st MARCH @ 10.30 a.m.



#### **426 PENN ROAD WOLVERHAMPTON**

Large and impressive Freehold building converted to three flats -

Flat No. 2 (First Floor) breakfast room, lounge, inner

landing, bedroom 1 with en suite shower, bedroom 2, w.c. EPC: F.34 Flat No. 3 (Second Floor) lounge / kitchen area, double bedroom, bathroom. EPC: G2

(NOTE: Ground Floor Flat No. 1 - in separate ownership and not included in sale).

Guide: £70,000 / £80,000 VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY. 20th & 21st MARCH @ 11.15 a.m.



#### 175 PENN ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

An impressive double fronted residence in prime location. Wide hall, through lounge, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen, lobby, wc and store, fine landing, three double bedrooms, bathroom. Outside: loggia, lovely gardens with wooded backdrop. EPC: G19

Guide: £240,000 / £260,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 20th & 21st MARCH @ 12.15 p.m.



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PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

# Invincible car a fine choice

#### By Matt Joy

Porsche's range of GTS models are turning out to be the aces in the pack; now there's a Cayenne version to join the line up.

The Cayenne has only just been updated, gaining internal and external tweaks, but in GTS form, it gets its own set of upgrades: there's a unique exterior styling package, which includes a body-coloured styling kit, larger matte-finished alloy wheels and GTS badging.

Mechanically, the GTS gets a new tur-bocharged V6 engine to replace the old naturally aspirated V8, a sports exhaust system, unique suspension tune and some tasty interior kit including Alcantara trim sports seats.

Where once the Cayenne was something of an acquired taste, it's hard not to find the latest model's design pleasing to



the eye. It certainly looks its sharpest in GTS form; the body-coloured lower section gives it better stance and hides its bulk

Its image is all the better for the GTS makeover too, although even now it's not a car for the shy, retiring type. When you're behind the wheel, it's hard not to feel like a success, which is precisely why it's such a popular choice.

#### Best

The GTS makes no compromises over the standard car in respect of space for passengers or luggage, so you can expect plenty of both. In fact the Cayenne offers one of the best cabins in the business: the seats are superbly supportive and com-fortable with a huge range of adjustment, there's plenty of space front and rear and the boot can carry a stack of suitcases happily. Although it's unlikely to ever venreaching you out of a sticky situation, even though the GTS isn't the best version for such adventures.

The biggest change for this latest GTS is the switch to turbocharged power, an inevitable result of the quest for improved emissions and economy. On the one hand, you do lose a little of the character of the old V8 engine, but in truth the V6 still sounds good, offers more power and torque and better fuel consumption.

Like pretty much every Porsche these days, all the mechanical elements blend together beautifully to create a car that just feels right when you're behind the wheel. The engine is powerful and flexible, the gearbox smooth but rapid-shifting when required and it handles with incredible



'Where once the Cayenne was something of an acquired taste, it's hard not to find the latest model's design pleasing to the eye.'

verve and precision for a car of this size. On a frozen test track in northern Sweden. the GTS drifted and danced its way along the treacherous surface with zero fuss. Yet it's still superbly comfortable when driven normally and can tackle long distances

The Cayenne GTS isn't a cheap car of course, but compared to the Cayenne S, on which it is based, you get a lot more for your extra cash. The more powerful engine, uprated brakes and suspension, smart bodykit and bigger alloy wheels are all worthwhile upgrades, while inside

there's lots of Alcantara and those lovely sports seats all as standard.

Who would buy it? Many buyers of the Cavenne are Porsche fans who find that the firm's smaller cars no longer fit in with their lifestyle, so the Cayenne is a genuine lack of all trades; families will love it. couples will love the fact that it is comfortable but also capable of towing, and even if you're stuck in the city, the high driving position and presence takes the strain out of stop-start traffic. The short answer then is anyone who can afford it.

Porsche Cayenne GTS, £72,523

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135 g/km; the Kia Picanto range are: Urban 39.2 (7.2) – 53.3 (5.3), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7) – 78.5 (3.6), Combined 50.4 (5.6) – 67.3 (4.2). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are 130 – 99 g/km.
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# A6 Allroad a standout model

#### By Graham Breeze

Audi has given the already successful A6 Allroad a better spec as well as increased performance and improved efficiency.

The A6 has always been one of my favourites in the Audi range, now the availability of Quattro permanent all-wheel-drive makes this model a stand-out option.

Improvements include a range of new and improved optional technologies like Matrix beam LED headlights which adapt automatically to the car's surroundings; Audi Connect that lets driver and passengers access the internet and top of the range MMI Satellite Navigation which in-

cludes picture book navigation.

Climate control has been improved with digital display as standard and the Allroad gets double glazing for windscreen and the cabin.

C02 level targets have been improved on the range thanks to gearbox changes, start-stop system improvements and lighter springs meaning that the 3.01DI QUATTRO S Tronic on test achieved 149g/km – a rer springs meaning that the 3.0TDi Quattro

duction of 16g/km.
Fed by a seven-speed gearbox the All-road has a top speed of 155mph, went from 0-62mph in 6.2seconds and standing on stylish 20" alloys averaged 50.4mpg.

This 4x4 offering won't take you charging up mountains but it does stick like glue, even in the wet, thanks to adjustable suspension. There's probably a bit more roll than on the saloon model but there's a comfortable ride and an elevated driving position.

Audi has given the Allroad a more mus-cular appearance too, thanks to extended wheel arches and the raised stance and impressive looking wheels

There's a lot of competition in this sector



'This 4x4 offering won't take you charging up mountains but it does stick like glue, even in the wet, thanks to adjustable suspension.' benchmark it does all come at a price

The model on test starts at £46,000 but the extras on board added another £22 000 which made it a tad on the pricey side at £68,140. You pay extra for Quattro, Head-up display, the 20" alloys, electric seats, LED headlights, speed limit display, privacy glass and the panoramic sunroof.

You'll also have to dig deep to fund a leather package BOSE surround system, night vision assist, Navigation Plus, Audi Connect, cruise control, side assist, lane assist, heated mirrors and heated mirrors.

But all Audi buyers will know they get

outstanding on the entire range.

The SatNav system with Google Map imaged in the centre of the driver's console is an outstanding feature while the cabin is a glorious place to be for those impressed by technology and comfort.

There's comfortable seating for five six-footers and while the boot space isn't best in class there's ample room for everything including a couple of golf club

Audi is giving the entire range a makeover but the Allroad is the stand-out model

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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Celerio range mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km): Urban 55.3-68.9 (5.3-4.1), Extra Urban 76.3-83.0 (3.7-3.4), Combined 65.7-78.4 (4.3-3.6), CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 99-84 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. Model shown: Celerio SZ3 (metallic paint available at £415). For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. "Celerio range — Celerio SZ4 Manual available at £7.999 to Celerio SZ4 Manual available at £8.999. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st January 2015 to 31st March 2015 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers.



# Citroën C4 now even better after an upgrade

By Matt Kimberley

Citroën used to be a byword for comfort, and we loved it for that. The firm is finally moving back in that direction, and the new C4 is at the forefront.

The C4 has a lot going for it, but upgrades were needed for it to stay with the pack. Tweaks to the headlights and styling details are more or less the extent of the exterior changes, but quality is on an upward trend with new technology and media interface options.

Citroën is quickly rejuvenating an identity: comfort. The press release accompanying the car's launch is crammed full of the word. Citroen is really beginning to feel like a different brand from its sister company Peugeot – and that's good news for both.

The C4 has what you'd call an aggressively French front end. Steeply angled headlight clusters give off an angry vibe, but the rest of the shape is pretty warm and fuzzy.

It's a good-looking car but you'd have a tough time arguing that it matches class leaders for image.

On the other hand, Citroën is doing everything it can to make its brand identity synonymous with comfort. Soon enough the French firm hopes that anyone looking for a comfortable everyday car will make Citroen their first stop. You can't argue with the numbers: the C4 has comfortably

the biggest boot among its direct rivals at 408 litres. That's seven percent or 28 litres bigger than a Volkswagen Golf's. The Skoda Octavia's is bigger again, but that's a much

In the front door pockets you'll find space for those chunky 1.5-litre drinks bottles you find at motorway service stations and takeaways.

The glove box can fit many gloves in it, too, and the only real oversight is that when you pull the floor-mounted luggage net in the boot upwards, it can bring the whole floor

#### **Impression**

The petrol and diesel models are surprisingly different to drive. The lighter petrol engine links to an over-light, elastic-feeling steering set-up that doesn't inspire confidence, but the diesel's calibration is more linear, more predictable and gives you the impression of more feel.

In total opposition to Peugeot's approach with the 308,

the C4's steering is snail-slow. It takes more turning action to get this car turned in – an impression exaggerated by the huge steering wheel.

The new automated manual gearbox is, thankfully, a vast improvement over previous units. You'd seriously consider buying one, now.

This C4 rides very well, too, especially over smoothly un-

dulating folds in the road. Flex in the suspension means that sharper bumps can knock it slightly off its line, especially in corners, but not by an exceptional amount.

The C4 is a decently refined cruiser, especially for such a

relatively reasonable asking price.

Seeing the range top out at a whisker over £20,000 is a surprise. Rivals cost significantly more and you'd argue that there's not much about the C4, in high-end Flair trim at least, that feels particularly cheap. You get a lot of space for your pound, too, and especially in the case of the diesel you get super-low running costs.

A family that prioritises comfort and budget would love the C4. Five useful seats, lots of standard safety equipment and even more on the options list make it a very handy fam-

But it's also a confident cruiser and will return decent fuel economy if driven steadily, so company car buyers might want to take a look.

This car summed up in a single word : Sanguine

If this car was: a contestant on Countdown it wouldn't worry itself about not winning the words rounds as it would do so well with the numbers

#### **TESTED**

Citroën C4 1.2 PureTech 130 Flair, from £18,245

Engine: Turbocharged three-cylinder petrol producing 128bhp and 170lb/ft

Transmission: Six-speed manual driving the front

Performance: Top speed 124mph, 0-62mph in

Fuel Economy: 58.9mpg (16-inch wheels)

Emissions: 110g/km (16-inch wheels)





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# Do we really need more gears?

#### By David Banner

Car makers are moving rapidly towards smaller engines in the search for greater efficiency and lower emissions. Hand in hand with this development has been an increase in the number of gears we find in the average car's gearbox.

Where once we were used to four speeds in a manual transmission and three in an auto, or four if you were buying at the very premium end of the scale, this is very old hat now. Today. six-speed manuals are the norm, with Porsche pushing this to seven for its latest 911.

As for automatic gearboxes, which have also evolved into dual-clutch transmissions for improved economy and seamless gear shifts, it's not uncommon to have six, sev-

en, eight or even nine ratios to play with. Some car makers are already looking at 10 and even 11-speed auto and dual-clutch gearboxes.

While this might be fine for a push bike where the effort comes from the human rider and has to account for limited power and many different types of road condition, do we really need this many gears in a car? Would we be better off with fewer gears

and cars that just get on with what we want them to do rather than constantly chopping and changing gear?
First, the case for an increased number

of gears. There are two main reasons for more gears: greater fuel economy and a sweet spot of power at reasonably low revs, you need lots of gears to account for varying conditions, and it also means you can use a smaller, more efficient engine to add to your savings.

There is another reason for car companies moving to more gears and that is simply marketing. More means more, so the more gears as a car has, the better it

Well, most people who have driven Porsche's latest seven-speed manual gearbox may well disagree and would prefer a six-speeder. So, the case for more gears is as complex as the design of a gearbox

#### Limited

The case for a return to fewer gears also stems from economy.

While larger luxury cars have the space

to accommodates transmissions with lots of gears, smaller cars are much more limited in the space they can offer to mechanical components.

Adding more gears might help economy, but if it impacts on passenger space and practicality, it becomes a pointless saving when the car cannot perform the function it was intended for.

Also, more gears mean more weight and this has a far greater impact in smaller cars than larger ones.

In the average supermini, would most drivers really notice if they 'only' had four gears to select from instead of six?

If those four gears' ratios were chosen to offer nippy acceleration in town and relaxed motorway cruising, we'd all be hap-

py.
Another option is the CVT (continuously



'Would we be better off with fewer gears and cars that just get on with what we want them to do rather than constantly chopping and changing gear?

variable transmission) gearbox. It uses variable diameter pulleys to deliver an almost infinite number of ratios, which in theory is the best choice.

However, these have not proved popular as they make the engine rev hard and make it drone to get up to speed, acceleration is not as brisk as in most autos and fuel economy is not usually as good as a manual or auto gearbox.

those who want fewer gears. Many experts in the auto industry predict cars will become more and more tailored to individuals needs, so as well as the retro looks of many cars, we could see retro-style engineering where cars have only a few well

chosen gears for drivers to enjoy.

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than that of the breeder.

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#### business directory

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Local Information

public & legal notices

Staffordshire County Council

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE DISTRICT OF CANNOCK CHASE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Staffordshire County Council, as surveying authority, in pursuance of its powers conferred by Section 57 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, have prepared an updated Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way for the District of Cannock Chase.

A copy of the Definitive Map and Statement has been placed and may be seen free of charge from 26th March 2015 during normal working hours Mondays to Fridays at the offices of:

Cannock Chase Council
PO Box 28, Beecroft Road, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 1BG Tel: (01543) 462621, customerservices@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Cannock Library Manor Avenue, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 1AA Tel: (01543) 510365, cannock.library@staffordshire.gov.uk

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Rugeley Library
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Rural Access Team Staffordshire County Council

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#### **LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES**

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

HIGHWAYS

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984-SECTION 14(1)(A) THE A5 TRUNK ROAD (MUCKLEY CORNER, STAFFORDSHIRE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport has made an order on the A5 Trunk Road, at Muckley Corner in the County of Staffordshire, to allow the installation of new lighting columns.

The effect of the Order will be to -

1. close the eastbound and westbound carriageways of the A5 between the roundabout junction with Hanney Hay Road and Barracks Lane and the roundabout junction with the A461 and Hall Lane (Muckley Corner Roundabout); and

prohibit vehicles from entering or leaving the length of A5 described in
 above at the junction with Lion's Den.

The work will be carried out overnight between 21:00 hours and 06:00 hours and is expected to start on Wednesday 25 March 2015 and continue for approximately 8 weeks. The Order will come into force on Monday 23 March 2015.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works will be exempt from the closures and prohibition.

Diversion routes via the A452 and A461 and vice versa will be signed. Access to property will be maintained at all times.

For further information, please contact Purnima Kaul on 0121 678 8586.

Mike Llovd, a Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency

Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings
and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order
2014 (Assented

riowit and Country Planning Act. 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2010 (as amended)
The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www. walsall. govuk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planningservices@ walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Danvall Street, Walsall, WS1 1D6. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice. Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act. 15/038/FLN TZ Nana, FCR \*Poposed 2 storey extension to side and 2 storey and single storey extension to rear (amendment to 13/1238/FL), (Affecting the Public Footpath WAL90, AT: 18,COUNTESS STREET, WALSALL, WS1 4JZ

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# going to be momentous. Says Purkiss BEN Purkiss believes playing at Wembley could be a career changing moment for Walsall's players. The 30-year-old full-back is a

veteran of the famous venue com-

veteran of the famous venue compared to many of his team-mates, having played there twice with York City.

And he has revealed how the second of those experiences, the 2010 Conference play-off final defeat to Oxford, proved a pivotal moment in the course of his career.

"I had a chance to get promoted with York and didn't," he said. "Had I got promoted, I would have stayed there, I enjoyed it there and had a good relationship with the fans.

"But I decided it was time to move on and I ended up at Oxford, who beat us.

who beat us.

"For whatever reason, it just didn't work out for whatever reason, the management, the way things were.

"Obviously the players had been

"Obviously the players had been promoted, so there was a loyalty to those players.
"I really feel there was a defining moment in my career and it has almost been a four year struggle to get myself back to where I

"I know it is not the same thing in that it is not a promotion at-tempt but it can be a career-defin-

ing time.
"It hurts and it does make a

"It hurts and it does make a massive impact on your career.
"You have to go out there, leave everything you can on the pitch and we can leave with our head held high.

"As long as we keep our emotions in check, we stand a good chance," added Purkiss.

#### Star are the brighter in Wood clash

Lichfield & Walsall District Football League

League One CANNOCK Wood 0 Erdington Star

Longdon Chet 2 Boney Hay 7 Pelsall Villa Colts 3 Dr.Johnson 3

Walsall Ph-nix 7 Saddlers Arms 1

League Two

Duke of Wellington 4 Oak Park

Duke of Wellington 4 Oak Park
Rangers 2
Eximius Warriors 0 ASP Victoria3
GS Rockets 2 Q-Bar 2
Hussey Arms 0 Dog FC 1
League Three
AFC Collingwood 1 Bowman FC 1
Burntwood Town Res. 10 Ros
Park FC 0
Scales FC 6 Whall 3 Crowns 1

Lichfield Challenge Cup - semi-final
AFC Bush 3 Anchor FC 1
New Inns FC 4 Prince of Wales 1

H Boston Cup - quarter final Green Rock Tav. 1 Cellar Door 0 DFL League Trophy - quarter final Queens Head 1 Burntwood Star 2

#### Petrov may lead Villa out in semi-final

ASTON VILLA boss Tim Sherwood has revealed that former skipper Stiliyan Petrov could lead the team out at Wembley in their FA Cup semi-final.

Petrov, aged 35, was forced to retire from playing in May 2013 after falling ill with acute Leukaemia.

But the ex-Bulgarian interna-tional, who is now in remission,last week accepted an invitation to join Sherwood's back room staff.

And the Villa chief said it would a 'good idea' to let the inspiring former Celtic man lead the team out at the Home of Football when Villa return to cup action in the semi-final.

Speaking after his team's 2-0 quarter-final win over local rivals West Bromwich Albion recently, he said: "I haven't thought about it (but it is a) good idea."

# JPT Final is Blox make most of first meeting

WITH an early meet time and a long journey ahead, Bloxwich were both excited and apprehensive about playing a Newtown team who for them were an un-known quantity for this season.

With Newtown originally unavailable to play Blox-wich at home, the first meeting of the teams had to be in the middle of Wales on a gloomy Saturday af-

Playing on a freshly laid and bouncy artificial turf pitch, it took Bloxwich some time to find their feet and settle in to what was starting off as a quickpaced match.

The match started evenly with both teams cre-

ating goal scoring opportunities within the first 10 minutes but neither side were able to convert their chances and get on the scoreboard.

Alex Strickland's return to the defensive line up was noted from the start where he executed some excellent last ditch tackles inside the D helping to hold off a strong and physical Newtown attack and keep them off the scoreboard.

The deadlock was finally broken by Adam Baldwin who battled hard to fight off the goalkeepers pressure and score his only goal of the game before injury forced him off the pitch and he took no further part in the proceedings.

Phil Ashcroft effortlessly scored a penalty flick

and Gary Williams scored another two great goals to take his scoring record to five goals in two games for Bloxwich. With a role playing higher up the pitch, coach Mallows added another to the Bloxwich tally.

Harry Robinson finally ended his goal drought with a well-taken goal and captain Marrocco slammed another in the goal to give Bloxwich another convincing win and making the long journey worthwhile.

With only two games remaining and one hand al-ready on the league title, Bloxwich are planning to train and work hard to ensure another three points come their way when they are away at Leamington

# Wood can't get back at Basford

WOOD came back from a horror start to equalise in the first minute of the second half.

Seven minutes later Lee Hendrie was red carded and against all the odds the 10 men

carded and against all the odds the 10 men of champions elect Basford United calmly regrouped and took control of the game.

After only three minutes a ball through the centre of the Wood defence looked to be running through to Wood keeper Mario Kisiel who had come racing off his line, he inexplicably hesitated and man of the match Ruben Wiggins-Thomas pushed the ball past him and ran on to score into an empty as

pushed the ball past nim and ran on to score into an empty net.

Wood's first effort came three minutes later, Steven Hayles flying down the left and crossing to beyond the far post, Leon Taylor powering a header just too high.

On 14 minutes a Stuart and Lee Hendrie interchange wide right, a near post cross for Stuart to bit first time inches wide.

to hit first time inches wide.

to hit first time inches wide.

An intricate move three minutes later on the Wood right involving Craig Deakin, Joey Butlin and Ben Evans saw Deakin race into the right of the box, his low cross put behind by Rob Durkin.

On 23 minutes a lovely one touch move across the face of the Wood box with the Hendries prominent ended with Lee fouled in the D, he took the kick himself, Kisiel saving at full stretch.

#### Revitalised

After a 15 minute delay a revitalised Wood were on the attack and within a minute they were back on terms. Harris whipped in a free kick from wide left, Lee Stretton timing his run to perfection and glancing a header beyond keeper Saul Deeney. On 51 minutes the Hendries combined through the centre, Lee released Stuart into the centre of the box; Shawn Boothe making a superb last ditch challenge, the ball broke for Lee who fired a first time effort well wide. Then on 53 minutes came the incident that ul-

Then on 53 minutes came the incident that ultimately changed the course of the game. Leewent for an early shower.

Riselwas beaten on 60 minutes however when a left wing corner was hit beyond the far post and skipper Dean Meikle scored with a powerful

header.
With Wood pressing for the equaliser they were with wood pressing for the equaliser they were open to a quick counter attack which duly came on 72 minutes, a ball was played out of defence to Hendrie who hit a lovely ball into the right of the box that found Jamie McNicholas, his low ball was bundled homebyWiggins-Thomas.

# Wembley 'will be greatest moment'



Dean Smith manager of Walsall and assistant Richard O'Kelly

RICHARD O'Kelly has Walsall in

So when the Saddlers' assistant manager takes his place in the dugout at Wembley next week, it will be the greatest moment of his

coaching career.

The former striker, whose association with the Saddlers goes back three and a half decades, is the enthusiastic, effervescent

presence right-hand man to boss Dean Smith.

And next Sunday's Johnstone's Paint Trophy final will mean something special for the man plucked from non-league football by the club when he thought his chance in the professional game might have passed him by.

"I was 22 when I turned up at this place," recalls the 58-year-

old. "I didn't come into the game that early.

"I was playing semi-pro foot-

ball.
"So what does it mean to me? As a coach, I know we got promotion with Doncaster via the player-offs and won this trophy, but because of everything that goes with it, this is my biggest achievement."

# Villa provide double trouble for Cats

Sunderland 0 Villa 4
CHRISTIAN Benteke and Gabriel Agbonlahor combined to leave Sunderland boss Gus Poyet on the rack.
Villa, who had scored only four Premier League

goals on the road all season, doubled their tally inside 44 remarkable minutes.

And but for a glaring miss by Scott Sinclair, they could have led 5-0 at the break.

However, doubles from Benteke – his first ended a 614-minute wait for a league away goal – and Agbonlahor gave them a commanding lead they never

bolianof gave their a commanding lead they never looked like surrendering.

That left Poyet, who was confronted by angry supporters close to his dug-out, to walk the gaunt-let. Locals among a crowd of 45,746 – the biggest of the season at the Stadium of Light – voted with their feet, many leaving long before the final whis-

then the title.

Villa's third successive win, two of them in the league after seven defeats on the trot, eased Tim Sherwood's men further clear of the drop zone.

But it left Sunderland deep in trouble and the Uruguayan, whose side has now won just one of its last 11 home league games, facing a no-holds-barred

inquest. Villa's pacy, snappy combination play left their hosts in tatters. They had not scored on the road in the league since Benteke's 32nd-minute strike at Crystal Palace on December 2, but they remedied that situation inside 16 minutes on Wear-side. Charles N'Zogbia flicked the ball around full-back Patrick van Aanholt to Leandro Bacuna, and he charged upfield before squaring for the Belgium international to side-foot past Costel Pantilimon with the help of a slight deflection off John O'Shea.

#### Culpable

The Republic of Ireland international was more culpable two minutes later when he misjudged Ciaran Clark's long ball. Agbonlahor ran on and col-

aran Clark's long ball. Agbonianor ran on and col-lected as Pantilimon started to advance, stopped, started again and was then comprehensively beaten by the Villa man's finish.

The home side, who offered little going forward, had appeals for a 33rd-minute penalty waved away after Jermain Defoe played the ball against Clark's arm, and their woes increased within minutes.

N'Zogbia and Bacuna combined to play Agbonlahor in, and he tiptoed past two players before calmly slotting the ball past Pantilimon for a second time.

A mass walk-out which had started after the sec-

ond goal grew in size and several fans had to be led away by stewards after heading towards the dug-out

But their pain was far from over and Benteke ex-tended the lead a minute before the break when he powered a header home from another Bacuna cross

The half-time boos were deafening, and were repeated as Sunderland started the second half with only 10 players, Sebastian Larsson missing the opening three and a half minutes. It looked amateurish, but the player had been having stitches to

teurish, but the player had been having statenes to a deep cut. Sunderland were significantly better after the break, but caused Villa keeper Brad Guzan little

break, but caused Villa keeper Brad Guzan little difficulty.

Larsson's curling 68th-minute free-kick flew just wide, and Steven Fletcher was unfortunate to see his 81st-minute effort come back off a post.

But as the game ground towards its inevitable conclusion, there were thousands of empty seats with all the noise coming from the Villa fans.

## United lose tough test against the Vesyans

Vesyans 25 Walsall United 14 WALSALL United faced a tough test against a strong Vesyans team at Streetly.

The visitors were competitive

The visitors were competitive throughout but the home team proved to be an effective unit and secured the win with two well executed late scores.

Walsall had created several scoring opportunities but had failed to take advantage of the situations.

Mitch Carless had produced some well-placed positional kicks and young lock forward Matt Craddock had secured some good lineout possession to set up ideal attacking positions.

inneout possession to set up ideal attacking positions.

The Walsall forwards looked threatening and put their power to good effect with two well created tries. Andy Fitzgerald scored their first try.

The ever industrious flanker threat th

drove through the defence from 10

Hooker Dan Poston helped to set up the next score as he took the Vesyans ball at a close range scrum, No.8 Carl Robinson was quick to react and ran through the home defence

Mitch Carless converted both Mitch Carless converted both tries to make it 15-14 at half time. Walsall failed to add to their score during the second half.
Winger Jordan Lay and centre Richard Clarke looked capable of making the break through.
While flanker Reece Bennett made a favourable impression in his first game for the team.
But passes were either dropped

But passes were either dropped or not delivered.

This was in contrast to some crisp passing by the hosts that eventually saw them secure a comfortable victory.

## I am getting back to best form - Delph

VILLA star Fabian Delph believes he is getting back to his best after inspiring his team to Wembley with a derby win against Albion.
Delph says Tim Sherwood's men repaid their long-suffering fans by winning Saturday's FA Cup quarter-final derby 2-0.
And the midfielder, who netted his side's opening goal, believes his own form is improving each week.
Delph said: "I'm not happy with the season really. I started well enough and then popped my shoulder out."

enough and der out.

"Then there was a red card, so it's been a bit up and down for me.
"But the last few games I seem to have got my momentum, so I'm

to lave got my memorable happy."
Delph was mobbed by Villa fans during a chaotic post-match pitch invasion that saw Baggies players shoved and confronted by home

supporters.
But the Villa midfielder played down a light-hearted comment in a TV interview claiming he was bitten by a fan. He said: "It was a kiss."

#### Downing has hopes of new Saddlers deal

DEFENDER Paul Downing is hopeful of signing a new Walsall deal in the near future.

The 23-year-old centre-back has confirmed he's keen to committing his future to the Saddlers, after thanking the club for the "fantastic" opportunity they have given him in the game.

the game.

Downing's contract expires at the end of the season but he is one of four players in talks over new deals. And he said: "It is not something I deal with, though there have been some preliminary discussions.

"I have always said I'm happy here. I'm from the area and I enjoy coming and playing for Walsall. I'm optimistic and hopefully we can get something sorted."

Downing has made 122 appears.

Downing has made 122 appearances for the Saddlers.

**Wood work but** can't beat Basford **Page 51** 

Wembley will be greatest moment Page 51

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## Bannister's single seals it for Khalsa

Sporting Khalsa1
SPORTING Khalsa face Lichfield in the final of the Staffordshire FA Vase after an early goal by Craig Bannister proved enough to separate the teams in this semi-final clash.

semi-tinal clash.

In a game high in tempo and energy but low in quality and clear-cut chances, it took Bannister's cool finish on four minutes to win the game.

Despite being in a league below, Stone Old Alleyians fought to the final whistle and pressured and harried Khalsa throughout.

throughout.

Bannister's goal was one of the few chances in the first half, a superb through pass by Marvin Nisbett setting the striker free and enabling him to dummy keeper Lewis Paglia before slotting home from the edge of the area.

A great cross by Nicky Campbell on 29 minutes found a near post flick by Bannister which looked dangerous but evaded everybody at the far post with the goal exposed.

the goal exposed.

Minutes later, an excursion forward by the home side saw Matt Thomas tussling with Tes Robinson and, having briefly got the better of the centre-half, opted to shoot hurriedly and harmlessly wide from long-range.

And on 25 sinttee Pobliscon was

wine irom iong-range.
And on 35 minutes, Robinson was called into action again after Paul Griffiths ghosted in behind the Khalsa defence and hit a low angled shot, which was saved by James Pemberton before being cleared as it bounced in the sixyard box.

The second belt gave the

yard box.

The second half saw the game open up a little and Bannister should have grabbed a second when Tim Jackson and Campbell combined to open the Stone defence, only for him to blaze over.

#### Lockmen tumbled as Wellington side put the boot in

#### Willenhall 1 Wellington 4

WILLENHALL went down to a 4-1 home defeat to Wellington that leaves them out of the West Midlands Premier

relegation zone only on goal difference.
The shell-shocked Lockmen were 3-0
down after just 27 minutes and Wellington added their fourth midway through the second half.

Matt Dorgan got Willenhall's goal in the 71st minute with a header from a

corner.
Matt Aubrey and Ben Fisher gave the visitors a 2-0 leadSoon after it was 3-0 when a corner was twice cleared off the line but the ball somehow ended in the back of the net via a goalmouth scramble.

A mis-hit Matt Aubrey cross from A mis-hit Matt Aubrey cross from right on the touchline 40 yards from the corner flag then some how skewed into the very top corner of the net for a lucky fourth. However, justice appeared to have been done when Matt Dorgan came steaming in at the far post to powerfully head home Wilson's delivery.

Wilson and Sudlow both forced good saves before Wilson's chip bounced back

# **Butlin's brace does double on Dynamo**

#### Shepshed 1 Walsall Wood 2

WALSALL Wood completed the double over Dynamo thanks to another brace from Joey Butlin.

The win keeps Wood in contention for a top-three finish in the Midland League Premier Di-

VISION.

Wood created the first chance when after just two minutes Butlin latched onto a ball on the left edge of the box, and his low drive was saved at full stretch by home keeper Ryan Thacker.

On seven minutes Liam Prescott raced clear down the home right. He cut inside the box, and his near post drive pushed away at full stretch by

Wood keeper Mario Kisiel. Prescott was again in the thick of it on 18 minutes. From a right-wing free-kick Jake Duffy calmly laid the ball back into his path and his first time rising drive bounced off

the top of the bar.

Four minutes later Max Black was fouled just

Four minutes later Max Black was rouled just outside the right of the D, and Butlin's free-kick bounced off the outside of the right hand post. A minute later an Andre Gonzales right wing run and cross was hammered goalwards by Butlin at the near post, but Thacker made a superb

M ENDS H

**AL DROUGHT** 

point blank save. Wood made the breakthrough on 38 minutes. A 60-yard cross field ball from Black found Corey Currithers wide on the right, he made the byeline, and fired the ball across the face of the six-yard box for Butlin to hammer it

home.

Dynamo put Wood under pressure at the start of the second half and equalised on 49 minutes.

Darby held the ball up cleverly and then re-leased Joe French into the right of the box, and his low cross to the far post was swept home by Danny Chapman.

Butlin then powered in a downward header that a defender could only deflect into thenet...

# Caines' late spot shot save a point

Blyth Spartans 3 Rushall Olympic 3 GAVIN Caines' stoppage time penalty rescued a point for Rushall Olympic who were heading for a loss. The first half alone produced five goals as Blyth took a 13th-minute lead through Dan Maguire after good work from Jarrett Rivers

from Jarrett Rivers.

Aaron Williams almost levelled within Agron winams amost revened within a minute but was denied by Nicholas Thomson in the Blyth goal so the Pics had to keep plugging away to keep a foot

and to keep plugging away to keep a loot in the game.

And plug away they did as the keeper could do nothing to prevent Williams grabbing his 18th goal of the season when he curled the ball into the net after 26 minutes.

26 minutes.

Blyth pulled ahead when Michael Richardson volleyed home on the half-hour mark and then was able to notch up another five minutes later to put his side 3-1 up.

side 3-1 up.

There was enough time in the first half for Williams to also grab his second of the game after prodding underneath Thomson.

Blyth looked to have held on until for the victory until Pies captain Caines stepped up to convert a spot-kick two minutes into added time and give his side a share of the spoils.

Blyth Spartans: Thomson, Nicholson, Mullen, Hutchinson (Hawkins 33), Parker, Hooks, Rivers, Richardson, Maguire, Wade (Turnbull 36), Dale.

Subs not used: Wearmouth, Lynch, Davis.

Rushall Olympic: Price, Tolley, Wiliams (Austin 55), Taylor, Christophorou, Caines, Palmer (Duggan 63), Heath, Williams, Melbourne (Reid 55), Leslie.

Subs not used: Roberts, Smith.

Andy Taylor and Jordy Hiwula in formation as they protect the ball during the match

Walsall 1 MK Dons 1

WALSALL'S Tom Bradshaw ended a seven-game drought with an early header here against the Dons at the Banks's stadium.

Reasoned Walsall fans could spend forever arguing the toss over which of the two is better, Bradshaw or former

Saddler Will Grigg.

A less tolerant portion would cut the debate short, given Grigg's acrimonious departure and the cult hero status enjoyed by new-boy Bradshaw.

whatever the answer, there can be no doubting that the Welshman merits more praise for his tally than his predecessor did for his.

tally than his predecessor did for his.

The reason for that is simple – Bradshaw has banged in the goals playing for a much poorer Walsall side than Grigg did. Bradshaw does not have the luxury of a Championship player in waiting in Jamie Paterson or a winger in the form of his life in Febian Brandy setting up countless

#### **Belittle**

That's not to belittle Bradshaw's support at-tackers. But Grigg was – certainly for a Walsall forward – a tad spoiled. And many of his goals came from the penalty spot. On top of that come Bradshaw's injury woes, without which he would surely have dwarfed the Northern Irishman's tally by now.

None of the above is meant to decry Grigg who, after a miserable season individually at Brentford, has once again hit the goal trail with MK.
Much like Bradshaw – who nodded an eighth-minute header into an empty net after

Dons keeper David Martin had gone walkabout under an Andy Taylor cross – Grigg could hardly

under an Andy Taylor cross – Grigg could hardly miss his goal.
But, like Bradshaw, he was in the right place. Grigg anticipated that Dean Bowditch would drill his centre into the six-yard box after beating the otherwise-excellent Ben Purkiss and the Dons' loan man duly poked home.
It was virtually the only time the Walsall defence – marshalled by the excellent Paul Downing – was caught napping all game. The other two

notable occasions came either side of Grigg's goal. First, Taylor was lucky to get away with a trip on Darren Potter in the penalty area that MK boss Karl Robinson fumed about afterwards.

Then Grigg looked clear, only for quick-thinking keeper Richard O'Donnell to reach the

Then Grigg looked clear, only for quick-tninking keeper Richard O'Donnell to reach the through ball first.

Both sides could have won it – for Walsall, Romaine Sawyers fired just wide, Adam Chambers saw a bullet header cleared off the line and a late strike from the returning Sam Mantom was tipped over by Martin.

For the Dons, Jordan Spence lashed a 25-yarder inches wide and in stopped time O'Donnell had

inches wide and in stoppage time O'Donnell had to backpedal furiously to keep out an errant

headed back-pass from James O'Connor. So it was honours even between two well-matched teams, with two well-matched central strikers. Which one is better is a matter of conjecture. For

Which one is better is a matter of conjecture. For Walsall fans, it's a shame they don't have both. Walsall: O'Donnell 7, Purkiss 7, Downing 9, O'Connor 8, Taylor 6, Manton 6, A Chambers 7, Cook 6 (Murphy 88), Sawyers 6, Hiwula 6 (Forde 73), Bradshaw 7. Subs not used: MacGillivray, J Chambers, Flanagan, Baxendale, Grimes.

MK Dons: Martin, Spence, Kay, McFadzean, Lewington, Potter, Carruthers, C Baker, Reeves (L Baker 77), Bowditch (Powell 69), Grigg (Cole 90). Subs not used: Burns, Hodson, Green, Hitchcock.

#### Villa are allocated **31,000 FA tickets**

VILLA have been handed an allocation

VILLA have been handed an allocation of 31,799 for their FA Cup semi-final — with tickets on sale now.

The club do not yet know whether they will be facing Blackburn or Liverpool at Wembley, or indeed which precise date the tie will take place.

But supporters will still be able to snap up their seats for the big game, which will take place on either April 18 or 19.

Tickets will be priced between £63 and

Tickets will be priced between £63 and £33 for adults and can be purchased on-

ticket office.

Priority will be given to season ticket holders, with those who have held a season ticket for more than 10 years.

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